

**Light Among Us**  
**Sermon 12-24-18**  
**Pastor Curtis Dehmey**

**John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Message:**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.” How can this be? How can this miraculous conception happen in Mary? How is it that God can come among men, among humanity? Why would God want to do such a thing? Is this a fairy tale? I mean you look at this story and it reads like a fairy tale. There is a miraculous conception in Mary. An angel visits Mary and Joseph. In Matthew, wise men follow a bright and magical star from the East. In Luke, lowly shepherds visit after hearing from an angel, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And guess what? They find what the angel had predicted. Mary and Joseph run into an emergency birth situation where they have to have this child in a stable and lay this child, Jesus, in a manger. Is it real? Some are going to say it's a nice story. Some are

going to say this is the traditional Christmas or Holiday story. So we got to remember and review it. But is it real? This is the very thing the Apostle John confronts us with in this passage.

The skeptics among us tonight are going to ask this question, is it real? The skeptics among us see darkness in the world. Children around the world are starving. Shootings in our schools. War. Tornados. Hurricanes. Volcanic Eruptions. Wild Fires. Tsunamis. Drug Addiction. Divorce. Broken families. Poverty. If all these dark things are happening in our world, then can this really be true? Even in our culture, we have all the means at our disposal. We have money. We have food beyond our imagination. We have shelter. Why do we need this “light” if we can take care of all these things ourselves? But can we? Can we actually take care of all these issues in the world? And if we can correct this darkness on our own, why haven’t we already done it? If we can do this on our own, why haven’t WE taken care of it? Believe it or not, our willpower will not save this world from darkness. I know we Americans pride ourselves on hard work, but hard work will not save this world. Even as we traverse reading the Biblical narrative. God tries over and over again to guide the people towards Him. He chooses to be the light to the world. He frees the Israelites from captivity in Egypt and promises them a bright future. And what do they do at the first sign of struggle? They want to go back to slavery. God gives them laws to help guide. A moral code that will help them to Godliness and righteousness. And what happens? They fail, over and over again. Their willpower, even their desire, to be holy and good and to be the light to the world of darkness, fails miserably. If humanity can’t thwart the threat of darkness in this world, than what can?

Great question! “<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.” Who is this light? “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [The Word is God incarnate. The Word is the truth. The Word is God among humanity.] <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. [So this child among us today was with God in the beginning of creation. Of all the world.] <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. [And here it comes...] What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.” Not just some people. Not just to the Jews or Israelites. The Word is the life and light of all people. How do we know the Word is this child in the manger tonight? “<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” And if you don’t believe this to be true, I dare you to research it. Many have tried to dismantle the truth of this birth. The truth of our faith. Many have tried to dismantle the truth of God coming

among humanity in this child we know as Jesus. I dare you to read through the gospels in the Bible and not come away amazed and changed by Jesus. But I'll take it one step further. If your sitting among us tonight and have not accepted Jesus into you heart, I dare you to genuinely repent of your sins, repent of your darkness and to ask for Jesus to come into your heart. And I promise you, you will experience the power of God. Why do all of us believe in this crazy story? Because we've experienced the power of God. We've experienced the indwelling of the Spirit, the Word made flesh, Jesus in us. We've experienced, the unexplainable. We've experienced the treasure of this child we honor tonight. We've experienced the love of Jesus in our hearts. We know the good news that is here among us tonight.

The Apostle John is telling us that at this point in time, the narrative, the world did not know the Word. God had not revealed that part of Him yet. <sup>11</sup>“He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.” So this child that comes among us tonight grows up one day and reveals that He is the savior of all of humanity. Why? Because, again, we can't save ourselves. We can't make things right with God. We need something bigger than ourselves to right the wrongs of this world. We need a light among us that will stamp out the darkness and cleanse this world of sin. We need someone that knows all and moves through all. We need the supernatural. This child that is born to us today some will reject. Some of you will reject this child. Some of you will reject the Word, God incarnate. And you will miss out on the life and light. You will miss out on God's answer to darkness in this world. <sup>12</sup>“But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.”

So I believe John places this simple question before us tonight with this birth: do you receive Jesus or not? Do you believe in Him or not? It's that simple. It's not maybe. It's not “yes, but...” It's either you believe in this child, Jesus, or you don't. It's either you believe that He is the son of God or you don't. It's either you believe that He is the Messiah, who died on the cross for your sins and for my sins, and rose on the third day to conquer death and free us from the darkness of this world, or you don't. And for those of you who don't, I'm saddened for you. Because you're missing out on a truly miraculous gift from God. You are missing out on the treasure that is Jesus. You are missing out on the greatest love you will ever experience. You are missing out on God among us. You are missing out on the opportunity and the power to become children of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, as told in Acts 1, many of us sitting here tonight have Jesus in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. The light of God is in those of us who believe in Jesus. We live in a dark, dark, world. A world that's in anguish. A world that's suffering. A world that experiences pain beyond words.

A world that tries to correct itself by the “will of the flesh,” but only does more harm. The only hope we have is in the Word, who became flesh. Our only hope is in Immanuel, God with us. Our only hope is in the “...Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Our only hope is in the son of God, the true light of the world, this child before us, our savior, Jesus Christ. So...do you believe in Jesus or don't you? Do you believe that this child is the light of the world? Amen.