

Monday, December 11

Looking to the Light

Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.
Luke 21:28
(NRSV)

Fort McMurray, where I live, is not the true north as north goes, but it is as far north as I have ever lived. The dark winter days were something I had to get used to, and though they can be challenging I have also grown to appreciate them. Especially in Advent, as the days grow shorter in anticipation of Christ's birth, there is a feeling that the world is narrowing in on something very important.

Sometimes the darkness, in whatever form, has a way of focusing our gaze on the light, even if it is just a little light in all that darkness. Jesus said that it was in the middle of great trials and tribulations that we were to "look up and raise our heads". Right at the moment when we are struggling to see much at all, Jesus tells us that our redemption is drawing near.

It is often when we feel most burdened, anxious or afraid that we begin to see more clearly and intensely the light Jesus brought into our world. Indeed it was just a small light at first, that grew and grew and will one day fill all things.

After four years in Fort McMurray I cannot think of anywhere I would rather be during Advent but in the Canadian North. As the world grows quiet in cold and darkness we wait upon Jesus to bring light to our eyes and warmth to our hearts.

In the midst of our darkness O Lord, come and fill us with the light of your presence. Amen.

Rev. Dane Neufeld (Anglican)
Pastor of All Saints Anglican Church
On Eagle's Wings Bible Camp Assistant
Fort McMurray, Alberta