

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018

SERMON NOTES

“Look Around”

Galatians 4:4-6

Isaiah 60:1-5

My view from the balcony...

When the right time came...

"Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the LORD rises and appears over you. All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance. Look and see, for everyone is coming home!" (Isaiah 60:2-4)

"This Christmas season finds us a rather bewildered human race. We have neither peace within nor peace without. Everywhere paralyzing fears harrow people by day and haunt them by night. Our world is sick with war; everywhere we turn we see its ominous possibilities. And yet, my friends, the Christmas hope for peace and goodwill toward all men can no longer be dismissed as a kind of pious dream of some utopian. If we don't have goodwill toward men in this world, we will destroy ourselves by the misuse of our own instruments and our own power."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What if...

"The true meaning of Christmas is expressed in sharing of one's graces in a world in which it is so easy to become callous, insensitive, and hard."

Howard Thurman

"Look and see, for everyone is coming home! Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home. Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy."

(Isaiah 60:4-5)

Additional Notes:

Questions for Further Reflection and Conversation...

- What's your favorite Christmas memory?
- When did the light of Christ first shine in your darkness?
- Reflect on MLK's quote, "This Christmas season finds us a rather bewildered human race. We have neither peace within nor peace without." Do you think that is still true, today? Why, or why not?
- How does the story of Christ's birth affect your understanding of God?
- Howard Thurman said, "The true meaning of Christmas is expressed in sharing of one's graces in a world in which it is so easy to become callous, insensitive, and hard." What graces will you be sharing with the world, this Christmas?
- What if "Bethlehem Revisited" is our opportunity to invite the people walking in darkness to come home?