

The Jefferson Spirit

Sundays at 9:00AM
& 10:30AM

Pastor Mark Jarema

January 12, 2025



"Christ is the World's Light"

John 1:1-5 proclaims the eternal nature of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, who was with God in the beginning and is Himself God. Through Him, all things were created, and His life brings light to humanity. This light shines in the darkness, symbolizing hope, truth, and salvation, and the darkness has not overcome it. These verses emphasize Christ's divine nature, His role as the Creator, and His mission to bring life and light to a world in need.

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5 (NIV)

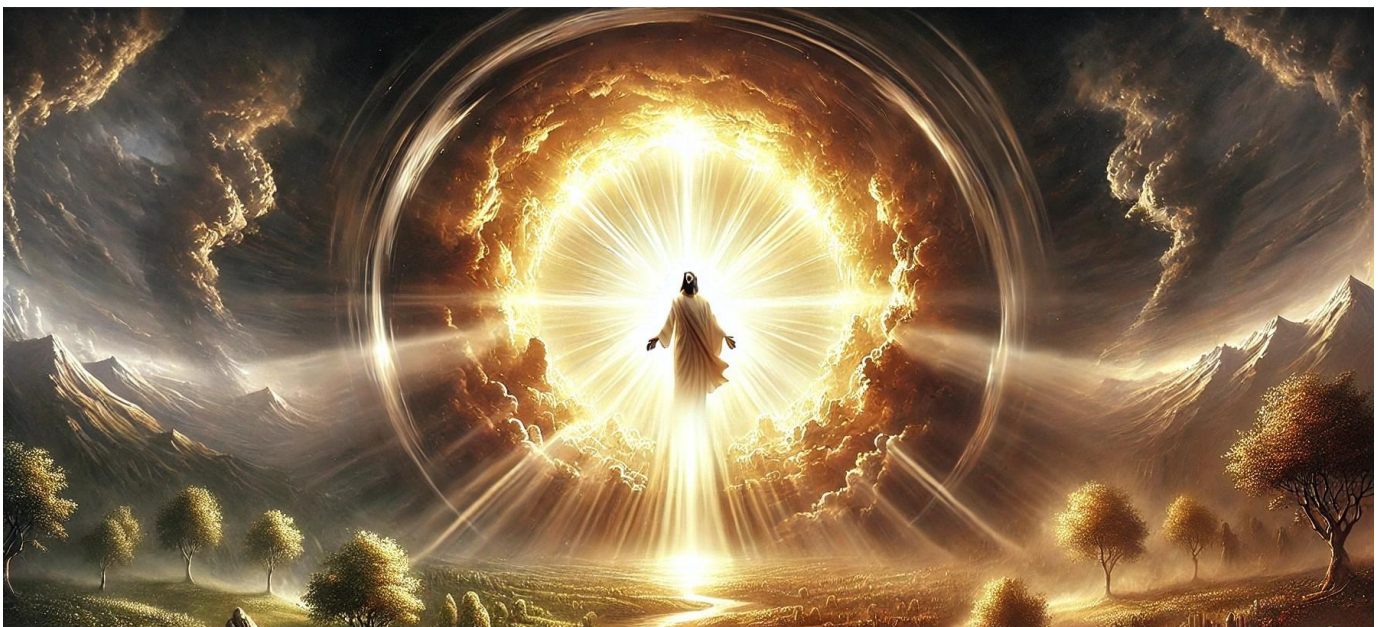
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Context:

John 1:1-5 introduces the profound and eternal nature of Jesus Christ, referred to as the Word (Logos). It begins by affirming that the Word existed in the beginning, was with God, and was God, highlighting Jesus' divine and co-eternal nature with the Father. These verses declare that through the Word, all things were created; nothing came into being without Him. This emphasizes Jesus' role as the Creator and sustainer of life, underscoring His authority over all creation.

The passage also portrays the Word as the source of life, which is the light of all humanity. This light symbolizes hope, truth, and salvation, shining in the darkness of a fallen world. Despite the pervasive presence of darkness—representing sin, ignorance, and evil—the light is not overcome. This eternal victory of light over darkness reflects the power and sovereignty of Christ.

John 1:1-5 serves as the foundation for understanding Jesus' mission and identity. It reveals His divinity, His role in creation, and His purpose as the bringer of life and light. These verses also set the tone for the rest of the Gospel, presenting Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises and the ultimate revelation of God's love and grace to humanity. Through poetic and theological depth, John invites readers to reflect on the eternal nature of Christ and His transformative presence in a world longing for light. In **John 3:16**, the person speaking is **Jesus Christ**. This verse comes from His conversation with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and religious leader who visits Jesus at night to ask questions about His teachings and the Kingdom of God.



Order of Worship

Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship (Congregation)

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: Through Him, all things were made; without Him, nothing was made that has been made.

Leader: In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

People: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who brings life and light to the world.

All: We come to worship Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the light of the world, and the hope of all creation! Amen.

Children's Message

***Christ is the World's Light, p.188 UMC Hymnal**

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-5

Sermon: Leave the Light On!

Offertory - **Music by Eileen Gordon**

*Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal

***Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth,
Who made all things and called them good,
Who loves us with a steadfast love and calls us to love one another.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
Who is the Word made flesh,
The light that shines in the darkness,
And the Savior of the world.
He was born of the Virgin Mary, lived among us,
Died on the cross, and rose again to bring us new life.
Through Him, we are forgiven, redeemed, and called to follow.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The breath of God that moves among us,
The power that transforms and renews,
And the presence that guides and sustains us.**

**We believe in the Church, the body of Christ,
Called to be the hands and voice of Jesus,**

**To share the good news, serve others,
And make disciples for the transformation of the world.**

**We believe in God's kingdom,
Where justice and peace will reign forever,
And in the promise of eternal life
Through Christ our Lord.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

This Little Light of Mine, p.585 UMC Hymnal

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, p.206 UMC Hymnal**

*Sending Forth

Postlude

Upcoming Events:

January 12 - 10am January Birthday Celebration

January 5 - February 9 Souper Bowl Can Food Drive starts. Please bring in food for the local food pantry - most needed items are canned fruit, vegetables and peanut butter.

January 26 - Let Pastor Mark or Doris Branch know of your interest in the Sight & Sound bus trip to see Noah. We hope to get a date in September 2025.

January 26 - Safe Sanctuary Training needs to be completed and paperwork signed.

February 2 - Holy Communion

February 8 - 3-5 Paint Day - Come join us for another afternoon of fellowship and painting.

February 9 - 10am February Birthday Celebration

February 9 - 11am Methodism 101 with Pastor Katie - RSVP to Pastor Mark or Lisa Pearre by February 2nd.

February 16 - 10am Potluck after church

February 18 - April 8th every Tuesday from 7-8pm Online Bible Study exploring Liz Curtis Higgs' bestselling book, Bad Girls of the Bible.

February 22 - Community Movie Night

Prayer Requests:

Doug Hill, who is having some life challenges (brother of Lisa Pearre)

Steve Souder who was diagnosed with kidney cancer and recovering from surgery

Deborah & Ronald Fulk with their health issues

Donald Corun and family

Sermon Insights

Sermon Lesson:

John 1:1-5 teaches us that Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, is the source of all creation, life, and light. In a world often consumed by darkness—be it sin, despair, or uncertainty—these verses remind us that the light of Christ shines powerfully and persistently, overcoming all that seeks to extinguish it. As we reflect on this passage, we are called to embrace the hope and truth found in Jesus, allowing His light to illuminate our paths and guide our lives. Just as His light brings life to all, we are invited to reflect that light to others, becoming beacons of His love and grace in a world longing for hope. No matter the depth of the darkness around us, we can stand firm in the promise that the darkness will never overcome the light of Christ. Let us walk confidently in His light, trusting in His life-giving power.

Application:

1. Trust in Jesus as the Source of Life and Light John 1:1-5 reminds us that Jesus is the eternal Word, through whom all life was created. In times of confusion or struggle, we can trust Him to provide clarity and direction. When life feels overwhelming, meditate on His Word and allow His light to guide your decisions and actions, knowing that He is the unchanging source of hope and truth.
2. Be a Reflection of Christ's Light Just as Christ's light shines in the darkness, we are called to reflect His light in our daily lives. Actively share His love, kindness, and truth with those around you. Whether through acts of service, encouraging words, or simply being present for someone in need, let your life be a testimony of Christ's light shining in the world.
3. Stand Firm Against Darkness. The passage assures us that darkness cannot overcome the light of Christ. This gives us confidence to stand firm in our faith, even when faced with challenges, sin, or evil. Equip yourself with prayer, Scripture, and the fellowship of believers to remain steadfast, knowing that Christ's victory over darkness is secure.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, John 1:1-5 invites us to recognize Jesus as the eternal Word, the light that shines in the darkness, and the source of all life. This passage reassures us that no matter how overwhelming the challenges of this world may seem, the light of Christ will always prevail. As we trust in His power and presence, we are called to live as reflections of His light, bringing hope and love to those around us. Let this truth anchor our faith and inspire us to walk boldly in the light, knowing that the darkness has no power to overcome it. May we leave here today renewed in our commitment to follow Christ and share His life-giving light with a world in need.

14-Week Sermon Series Outline on the Gospel of Mark

Series Theme: "The Servant King: Journeying with Jesus to the Cross and the Resurrection"

Week 1 (January 19): The Beginning of the Gospel

Text: Mark 1:1–15 - Title: "The Good News Begins"

Focus: Jesus' identity as the Son of God and the beginning of His ministry.

Application: How can we prepare our hearts to embrace the Good News in our daily lives?

Week 2 (January 26): Following the Servant King

Text: Mark 1:16–39

Title: "Come, Follow Me"

Focus: Jesus calls His first disciples and demonstrates His authority through teaching and healing.

Application: What does it mean to leave everything and follow Jesus today?

Week 3 (February 2): Faith in Action

Text: Mark 2:1–17

Title: "Faith That Forgives and Restores"

Focus: Jesus forgives sins and heals, showing His authority and grace.

Application: How can faith transform our lives and help us bring others to Christ?

Week 4 (February 9): Jesus, Lord of All

Text: Mark 3:7–35

Title: "Lord of the Sabbath, Lord of All"

Focus: Jesus redefines family as those who do God's will and shows His authority over traditions.

Application: How does aligning with God's will shape our identity?

Week 5 (February 16): Lessons from the Kingdom

Mark 4:1–34

Title: "The Kingdom of God is Like..."

Focus: Jesus teaches parables to reveal the nature of God's Kingdom.

Application: How can we grow in faith and participate in God's Kingdom work?

Week 6 (February 23): Faith Over Fear

Text: Mark 4:35–5:20

Title: "Who is This? Even the Wind and Waves Obey Him!"

Focus: Jesus calms the storm and heals a demon-possessed man, demonstrating His power and compassion.

Application: How can we trust Jesus in life's storms and share His peace with others?

Week 7 (March 2): Power Over Death and Disease

Text: Mark 5:21–43

Title: "A Touch of Faith"

Focus: Jesus heals a bleeding woman and raises Jairus' daughter.

Application: How can we trust Jesus for restoration and bring others to Him?

Week 8 (March 9): Jesus Feeds the Multitude Text: Mark 6:30–52

Title: "The Bread of Life"

Focus: Jesus feeds the 5,000 and walks on water, demonstrating His power to meet both physical and spiritual needs.

Application: How does Jesus meet our deepest needs, and how can we share His abundance with others?

Week 9 (March 16): Confessing Christ

Text: Mark 8:27–38

Title: "Who Do You Say I Am?"

Focus: Peter's confession and Jesus' call to take up the cross and follow Him.

Application: What does it mean to confess Christ and live a life of true discipleship?

Week 10 (March 23): The Glory of the King

Text: Mark 9:2–13

Title: "The Transfiguration"

Focus: Jesus reveals His divine glory and points to His mission of redemption.

Application: How can experiencing Jesus' glory transform our faith and mission?

Week 11 (March 30): Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Text: Mark 11:1–11

Title: "Hosanna to the King!"

Focus: Jesus enters Jerusalem as the humble yet victorious King.

Application: How can we honor Jesus as King in our hearts and lives?

Week 12 (April 6): The Servant's Sacrifice

Text: Mark 14:12–26

Title: "The Last Supper"

Focus: Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper, pointing to His ultimate sacrifice.

Application: How does communion remind us of Jesus' love and inspire us to serve others?

Week 13 (April 13): The Cross and the Kingdom

Text: Mark 15:21–39

Title: "The Suffering King"

Focus: Jesus willingly endures the cross for the salvation of the world.

Application: How does Jesus' sacrifice inspire us to trust Him and share His love with others?

Week 14 (April 20 - Easter Sunday): He Has Risen!

Text: Mark 16:1–8

Title: "The Risen Savior"

Focus: The resurrection of Jesus and the call to share the Good News.

Application: How does the resurrection empower us to live in hope and proclaim the Gospel boldly?

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN WORD SEARCH

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BLINDNESS
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COMFORTER
DISCIPLE
DIVINE
ETERNAL
FEET

FISHERMEN
GLORY
HEALING
I AM
INCARNATION
JOHN
JUDAS
LAMB
LAZARUS
LIFE

LIGHT
LOGOS
LOVE
NATHANAEAL
NICODEMUS
REBIRTH
RESURRECTION
SAMARITAN
SENT
SIGNS

SPIRIT
TESTIMONY
THOMAS
TRUTH
VINE
WASHING
WATER
WAY
WINE
ZACCHAEUS