

Daily Devotion for November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020  
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**Matthew 5:14-16**

*<sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

It's election day! As followers of Jesus, we are called to be the light of the world...and there's no better time than the present to be shining with all our might.

These words from Jesus come right on the heels of the beatitudes, which many of us heard in worship this past week (and which Pr. Julianne Smith used for her devotion yesterday). Jesus knew people needed to be reminded of their identity as children of God called to let their light shine before others in the world.

Jesus also knew that the people he was speaking to needed a word of support, solidarity and encouragement. He knew they needed to hear that God had not abandoned them in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

Centuries later, in a whole different time and a whole different context, we *still* need to hear this reminder from Jesus who continues to say to us in the midst of fear and uncertainty, "You are the light of the world." And every act of kindness, compassion, reconciliation, justice, or peacemaking shines that light.

Every time we seek to lift others up, or face brokenness with grace, or exercise mercy instead of vengeance, or welcome those who are different, or help those in need, or advocate on behalf of the oppressed, or pray in the midst of despair, or assure others that they too are a beloved child of God no matter what they do or who they vote for...

Every time we follow in the ways of Jesus, we reflect his light in the world and shine.

Regardless of what happens on the other side of this election, our identity as children of God continues. The cross, not any human government, continues to be the source of our salvation. And our calling to love one another and the world continues as well.

You are the light of the world... "So shine, shine, shine where you are" (lyrics from the song link below). Amen!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwRXflPsdm8> "Light of the World" by Tangled Blue