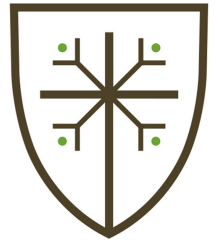


SERMON NOTES



September 4, 2022

SERMONS ON FIRST JOHN

Reasons to Stay

All Saints Presbyterian Church

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Reasons to Stay: God in Light

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Isaiah 60:1-7

1 John 2:3-11

John 13:1-5, 12-17, 34-35

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you living a life in the direction of the Rising Light?
2. What things, people, or ideas draw us away from a life whose orbital center is God?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Josh turned our attention to chapter two in our sermon series on First John. Whereas last week, we looked at how Christianity deals with darkness, this week we saw what it looks like to walk together in the light of the Lord.

In chapter two, John continues his series of "if anyone" statements - if anyone claims to know God, but does not do what God commands, does not live a life directed toward imitating Christ, they are lying and wandering in the dark.

God calls us out from wandering in the darkness and not only forgives us but puts us on the path towards the rising light. God has sent his light not only to cast out the darkness, but to illuminate that which is beautiful.

The reason to stay walking in the light? Because that is the future - all the darkness is passing away in Jesus. "The true light is already shining."

As we walk with God in his light, we begin to truly know God. And to truly know God is to keep his commandments. We are called to participate in the love of God as displayed by Christ when he washed his disciples feet. We are called to love one another, and to love as Jesus did, "to the end."

Finally, what's the point if there's so much darkness? How can loving the person sitting next to me in church change anything if no one sees it? God sees. God sees each step taken in and further towards the light and he delights in it.