



Minister's Message

Wrapped in Love: Finding Light in November

There's something I really enjoy about this time of year. The air gets a little cooler, the evenings come a little earlier, and there's something especially inviting about curling up under a favorite blanket, sitting by a warm fire, or just relaxing with a hot cup of tea. It's almost as if the season itself is telling us it's okay to slow down a little.

Of course, November also brings the time change. We turn our clocks back, and suddenly it seems like it's getting dark before we've even finished our day. I'm not sure any of us particularly look forward to that part! But as I was thinking about those shorter days, a thought came to mind: **We may have less sunlight this time of year, but we certainly don't have any less Son Light.**

John's Gospel reminds us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light" (John 1:5, CEB).

I love that reminder. The seasons change, the clocks change, and life certainly has its share of changes too. But God's love doesn't grow dim just because the days do. God's presence is just as real on a cold, gray November afternoon as it is on a beautiful, sunny summer morning.

And that brings me back to that favorite blanket. You know that feeling when you've been out in the cold and finally get to come inside, settle into your favorite chair, and wrap yourself in something warm? The cold outside hasn't gone anywhere, but somehow things just feel a little better.

I like to think of God's love that way. It doesn't mean the difficult things in life suddenly disappear. We still have worries, disappointments, grief, and days when things just don't go the way we'd hoped. But through it all, we have a God who wraps us in love, offering comfort, strength, and the reassurance that we don't have to face any of it alone.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Paul calls God the source of all comfort. But there's another part of that passage I especially like. Paul reminds us that God comforts us so that we, in turn, can comfort others. And maybe that's a good thought to carry with us into this season of Thanksgiving.

We often spend November thinking about all the things we're grateful for, and that's a wonderful thing. But perhaps gratitude is about more than counting our blessings. Maybe it's also about finding ways to share a little of the warmth we've been given.

A phone call to someone we haven't talked to in a while. An invitation to share a meal. Taking a few extra minutes to really listen when someone needs to talk. Or simply letting someone know they're being thought of. None of these things requires a grand gesture, but any one of them might make a bigger difference than we realize.

It's also a pretty good picture of what we're talking about when we say *Connect. Grow. Serve.* We experience God's love in our own lives, grow in that love, and then find ways to share it with the people around us.

So, sometime this November, when you're curled up under a warm blanket or enjoying the glow of a fire while the evening settles in, take a moment to remember that you're wrapped in something even better, God's never-ending love. And maybe, while you're enjoying that warmth, think about someone who could use a little of it, too.

The days may be getting shorter, but there are still plenty of opportunities to brighten someone else's day.

Wishing you a November filled with warmth, gratitude, and the comforting reminder that no matter how early the sun sets, God's light is always shining.

Pastor John

