Dec. 24, 2017 (morning) Word Made Flesh John 1:1-18 (Psalm 130:5-8) Liturgical color: Blue PRAYER OF THE DAY God of all time, Your Word became flesh and walked among us. Receive our gratitude and awe for all that you have done through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. HYMNS Of the Father’s love begotten ELW 295 O come, all ye faithful ELW 283, H82 83, UMH 234, NCH 135 Soon and very soon ELW 439 CHORAL The Glory of the Father, Egil Hovland

**Announcements** **Prayers**

Thank you to altar guild, musicians, bulletin folders , newsletter editor contributers and collators, financial offering givers, and counters, card writers, homebound gift makers and deliverers, all who pray for the ministry and people of St Dan’s, and the council and staff of St Daniel’s for your dedication year round and your extra effort here in the Advent and Christmas seasons!

Brent & Maryanne Lewis (Brian’s nephew)

 Marie Higgins, Robert Boyer

Psalm 130:5-8 “I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

 6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

 7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

 8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.”

A shooting star, it was so beautiful, so bright, so dazzling… so hard to believe… gone so fast, it was hard to believe that she had seen one. ‘Did you see it too?’

{wait}

Waiting for the answer, the answer that could tip the balance either way… **no** I did not see it; ‘well maybe I did not really see a shooting star either.’

Or **yes**, with excitement rising ‘I saw it too!’ Then the delight of the moment is shared!

John on the other-hand had a more difficult task. He was a **witness** for a while to something that had not yet been seen… and later a witness to something seen, but not yet believed… something he witnessed way more awesome than a shooting star.

John is a witness to the Creator of the entire world; yet a creat**or** who is not accepted by the creat**ed**.

John is a witness to a shining light in a world full of darkness and troubles… only this light, is one that darkness **cannot** overcome, John testifies. And obviously there were people who did not believe, those who did not accept that God could … or would break right into the heart of humanity in the world… beyond blood, beyond the will of the flesh, beyond the will of man… **fully** God.

Even though there were people who did not believe… it was still true: the Word became flesh and lived among us! Drink it in deeply… God fully present… feast on the Word… God in the flesh… listen fully because as we are told … no one has ever seen God… It is God the only Son, who has made him known! And like the rain and snow watering the earth… God’s Word too will nourish and will not return empty to the one who sent that WORD to live among us!

Yes it is confusing… how can Jesus be Son of God and God incarnate as the same time? That’s only part of the Trinity question… that’s a mystery that the human understanding cannot grasp… this is in–part why the Divine came to live among us, so that we could believe… so that we could become children of God!

So that we could be touched with grace and truth from God… and learn how to interact with the rest of God’s children in a similar manner… full of grace and truth.

Then witnesses will say, did you see that? It was just a glimpse of grace and truth… when the person at the toll booth ahead of us gave a gift card to the attendant… when the old man picked-up the doll giving it back to the child in the stroller… when the firefighter went into danger to save another life… when the parent stayed-up all night with a sick child… when a toddler wiped a tear from the face of a man crying on TV….

Did you see that? A light shining in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Like John the Baptist we are witnesses in deed and word to the presence of God with us… right here in the world. So the question is not only did you see that… it is more for those of us who are witnesses… the question is also did you SAY that? Did you share what you saw? Did I call attention to the presence of the one who is FULL of grace and truth?

Whether our witness is Accepted or not… the full power of grace and the full truth …

Christ is coming, believe it; don’t miss Him! Come and see… go and Say!