



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SERMON
6-21-15

Durham Cathedral – begun in 1903 – nearly 500 feet in length. Huge columns each side, pointed arch ceiling.

Staging of “Jesus Christ Superstar” Non-profit charity group – near 100 youth participating
The dramatic ending – the points of light.

Baptism of Karson – asking him to be a light in the world. Fathers asked to shine in the world.

We get frightened and wish to flee, to disappear – but our points of light are our witness, our courage, our conviction, our surprise. Shine the way into noticing God’s presence.

Running away literally doesn’t solve our problems – for we take ourselves with us and imagine that we can arrange our situations for our own comfort. It is to cut ourselves off from true freedom and life with community and neighbors and God.

Here is what we should flee from:

People – company that will make us feel better but will equally involve us in a lifetime of frustration.

Flee from projection – our own inflated expectation of ourselves or other people’s projections of who they expect us to be

Flee from conformity

Flee from easy words, easy speeches, words that are clichés, are glib, mocking, dehumanizing

Flee from violence, fraud, torture, infidelity, from control of others

Flee from what makes us feel smug and in control, from what gratifies our longing for approval and respect.

Flee from privilege, safety, unuseful speech, all the illusions which make life appear easier.

For God is found in the chaos, in the storm, in the unexpected, in the trust, in the silence, in the calm, in the waves and in the fear. In the song, Wade in the Water – God’s gonna trouble the water. That’s when our light will shine and show the way. That’s when we will live as more of our self than we ever imagined possible. We have a light to shine into the dark places in this world.

Thanks be to God.