

Sunday February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sermon: “Be a Lucifer”

Tell me. Who was Jesus? Describe who Jesus was. Itinerant preacher. Healer. Mystic. Teacher. Prophet. Miracle worker. Etc. etc. etc.

One day Jesus and the disciples were walking on their way to another town. A few of the disciples were straggling behind, engaged in a discussion about who the people thought Jesus was. Jesus, aware of the debate raging behind him stopped and looked at the disciples and said to them, “Whom do you say that I am?” They replied, “You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being, the ontological foundation of the context of our very selfhood revealed.”

Okay. That’s not really what they said. The point is, there are many ways of describing who Jesus was and is.

If you could use three words to describe yourself, who would you tell me you are?

Now what about if I asked you to describe who others say you are?

There are lots of ways of describing ourselves and others. We could be a freestyle skier, a luger, a bobsledder, a figure skater, a ski jumper, a speed skater, a biathlete, a snow boarder, a cross-country skier, a downhill skier, a hockey player, or, this weekend, a football player with the Seahawks or the Patriots, or, if you watch the news from south of the border, and it’s difficult not to be aware of what is happening there, you could be cruel, or hateful, or violent, or fearful, or truthful, or a liar, or.....

Whom would God say you are? A child of God. Beloved. Cherished.

Of all the things we could say about who we are, I think one of the most important is found in today’s scripture lesson. You are the light of the world!

What do you suppose that means?

How might others come to the conclusion that we are the light of the world?

Matthew would say to “let your light shine so that others may see your good works.” Paul, in his letter to the church in Corinth, which we did not read toady, put it this way, “not with words, but with demonstration.” Or, as the song says, “They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love.”

In Minneapolis, how can you identify those who are the light of the community? Those who stand up against violence, against abuse of power. Those who show up as witnesses to what is going on, take videos and share them. Those who help by delivering food, prescriptions, and other necessities to neighbours who are afraid to leave their homes. Those who speak out and say that what is being done is not alright, is not acceptable.

How about here, in Dorchester? How would the community be able to identify those who are the light of the world here in Dorchester?

In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul tells us that we all have “gifts bestowed on us by God.” Do you know what gifts God has bestowed on you? Do you use those gifts for the benefit of the community? How do you shine your light in a world that has grown darker in recent years?

Of course, you realize that shining your light can make you unpopular, can even be dangerous and life threatening, and is most certainly political because when you shine your light you expose evil and injustice. Shining light on and exposing systemic injustice can be fatal as those who benefit from the injustice do not truly want justice. What they want is to continue benefitting from injustice, and there is an ever-increasing amount of that in the world right now.

Of all the things that we could be, a preacher or a teacher, hockey player or a piano player, a singer or a sinner the most important thing we could be right now is a bearer of light, a lucifer. So go be a lucifer.