

Sunday, January 22, 2023 Epiphany 3 *“Serving in the Light”*

Psalm 27: 1-4, 11-14 Matthew 4:12-23

Did anyone see anything new as you came into the church driveway today? Maybe you did not see two new items because it is bright outside and you don't really see them working right now. Any idea?

One of the things we were concerned about here at Glenwood is making sure everyone is safe as they walk to and from the buildings. To ensure this, there is now new lights which come on in the early evening and help keep us safe as we walk from the buildings to vehicles.

Have you ever been in total darkness? That is your eyes were open and you couldn't see anything including your hands? How did you feel? Were you afraid- anxious-uneasy or were you calm and relaxed? When we think about being in the dark for a while we have to remember that for half of every day there is darkness for everyone. Everyone experiences the dark of night every 24 hours. But we also have to think about the opposite for not only is there darkness, there is light.

We depend upon this light which comes from the sun- for it not only causes us to perk up, we want to be like moths-and fly to the light! Why do you think many people leave Canada in the winter months and head south? To get closer to the sun and feel its warmth! They want to experience the light and to see new things which cannot be seen in the dark.

We are so glad that the beavers, cubs and scouts are with us today—the 45th Scouting group came to Glenwood in 2019 and we shared in a church parade that year. But since we couldn't because of the pandemic yet I am aware how much work your leaders did to keep the youth engaged in Scouting activities and learning about the world. We need to thank them for their commitment in help you to experience new things even though you couldn't meet like you do now!

Your leaders have helped you to do some amazing things through zoom meetings, through in person small groups and now as you start camping and going on more adventures and experiences they look forward to seeing you take on leadership and responsibilities. This is

why Glenwood Church as supported Scouting almost as long as the church has been here! We like to see people grow into leadership roles and to fulfill their promises.

In your promises which you shared with everyone are words which describe what each of you will do as you learn and grow and become great citizens. These promises include what you will do- as young Beavers: being kind, helping take of the world; as Cubs: doing your best, being true to yourself, doing your duty to Canada and doing a good turn for somebody each day; Scouts also promise to do their best, respect the country and beliefs, help others and to carry out the Scout law which tells each one to act in a certain way.

All of these promises describe what we call in church talk—service.

As a church we are grateful that you are learning how to serve others. Jesus is God's son and is the one we serve as we do what God's calls us to do and what we promise we will do.

For Jesus teaches us – follow me and serve me as you are able and willing.

Jesus is the one we also call the Light of the world. For it is through Jesus we can see the world in new ways. Not just as the place where there is war, lack of food, changes in climate and people divided; the world is also a place of caring and love and of people searching for the Light of Jesus to follow like moths at night.

So what does it mean to serve God? Serving God means serving others.

What are ways we might serve others?

Be kind to strangers. Remember someone. Pray for those in need. Share: Food, Time, money possessions- stuff talents, the teachings of Jesus- Bible/word and by praying to God for those who are in need.

How might we understand our role?

There was a young Cub who was known as Happy Cub; This Cub had learned about being kind to others and what it meant to recycle as a Beaver. Now that this young person was a Cub there were more things to learn-this Cub cared for others but was not sure what it meant to serve others and meet the needs of those he met.

One day he thought of his next door neighbour and decided to have hot chocolate and share it with the neighbour. A parent helped then. The cub then went to the neighbour who was feeling down that afternoon. IT was a dull afternoon as a little bit of rain fell. The young cub rang the doorbell and when the neighbour answered the door- he saw the boy and grumpily asked, "What do you want?" He said, I came to give you this hot chocolate to share with me. He was invited in they sat down and drank in silence. Slowly the boy asked a couple of questions about the man and his family and the man asked how he liked Cubs and he said it was fine. The man got upset—fine? How can it be? You came and disturbed my quiet time and brought me hot chocolate. Cubs is only fine? You don't know what you did for me—you brought light into my heart and life. You shared yourself with me. You served God by serving me today and I am better for it.

The cub thought quietly and said, all I did was visit you with hot chocolate. Yes but you remembered me and spent time with me. You brought the light of hope into my life again and you made me smile again.

So what does it mean to serve? It means sharing of oneself and knowing that you can make a difference to someone else!

I have a question- when you start a fire do you expect that when you first light it up, that the logs will burn? No—you take something to start it that is small- light this and enable it to begin to burn. Then you move that small starter to the twigs and small logs to burn next. And eventually you get the whole fire burning bright. This is what we are called to do. To let the light of service and sharing be a part of who you are as you grow older. For even adults continue to serve others; and this desire does not stop as they follow Jesus.

For Jesus is the one we call the Light. He came into the darkness of the world as a light that shines forever bright. And is what we hope for you—that you will continue to serve others for as you serve others- you serve God.

THANKS BE TO GOD.