

UHPC WORSHIP –FIRST SUNDAY/ HOLY COMMUNION---2019--EPIPHANY

SERMON TOPIC: “LET THE GOSPEL LIGHT SHINE!”

The Prophet Isaiah cried to Israel: *“Arise, shine; for YOUR LIGHT has come, and the GLORY of the LORD, is risen upon you!”* We, the church, who belong to the Kingdom of Jehovah God by grace through faith, can be GLAD to know that we have been ingrafted into ISRAEL through the Blood of Christ Jesus. Therefore, we are partakers of this promise and of its reality. IN FACT, WE THE TRUE BELIEVERS OF THE CHURCH, HAVE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED THIS LIGHT BEFORE NATIONAL ISRAEL DID. For although He—the LIGHT, came to His own, --although all things were created through Him and for Him, and by Him, -WHEN HE CAME TO THE WORLD, THE WORLD DID NOT KNOW HIM. WHEN HE CAME TO HIS OWN PEOPLE...THE JEWS, THEY REJECTED HIM, SCORNEH HIM, BEAT HIM, AND CRUCIFIED HIM... **Like they were supposed to. This may sound radical and bizarre**, but it is TRUE. IT WAS FOR OUR SAKE THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY. This was pre-destined so that those who were shut out, who were ignorant of the Living God, who were in DARKNESS, MAY COME INTO THE TRUE LIGHT AND BECOME ONE HUMANITY UNDER THE SAME GOD, WITH THE SAME FAITH, AND OF THE SAME BAPTISM. AT THE SAME TIME DESPITE THEIR ERROR, ISRAEL HAS BEEN GIVEN THE SAME PRIVILEGE TO CONFESS THEIR SINS, REPENT, BE BAPTISED, AND BE FORGIVEN. SO NOW EVERYONE HAS TO COME TO THE HEAVENLY FATHER IN THE SAME WAY... THROUGH THE GATE OF MERCY BY ACCEPTING CHRIST JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL. BELIEVE, CONFESS, REPENT, BE BAPTIZED, RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT. STUDY HIM, LEARN OF HIM, SERVE HIM, LEAD OTHERS TO HIM. RECEIVE THE LIGHT, WALK IN THE LIGHT, AND SHARE THE LIGHT.

When Peter convicted those who falsely accused and murdered the LIGHT OF THE WORLD, THE GIFT OF GOD FOR SALVATION, THE SAVIOR, MESSIAH, SON OF GOD, AND THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF JEHOVAH GOD ON EARTH, they were CUT to the heart. So, they asked Peter: **“What should we do now?** In other words, now that we see our error and our willful sin, WHAT CAN WE DO NOW TO BE REDEEMED? Peter told them: “REPENT, AND BE BAPTIZED EVERYONE OF YOU THAT YOUR SINS WILL BE FORGIVEN AND YOU WILL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. For the promise is for you and for your children ... and to all who the Lord our God calls to Him.” (Acts 2; 33-39)

The LORD continued to speak through Isaiah saying that although DARKNESS will be covering the earth, the GLORY OF THE LORD will arise over GOD'S people and it will be seen upon them/us, you and me who have obeyed. Kings and Gentiles will come to the LIGHT. THEY WILL COME BRINGING GIFTS OF ABUNDANT WEALTH ---OF GOLD AND INCENSE. They will come in multitudes from Seba, Sheba, Midian, Epha, ... for God's wrath will be reversed and cancelled, and the LORD will have MERCY ON YOU, ME, US and all who turn to Him in faith. Therefore, your gates shall always be open continually so that the wealth of the nations and the multitudes of the people may flow in. AWESOME!!! GOD'S FAVOR WILL FLOW MATERIALLY AS WELL AS SPIRITUALLY IN THE FRUITS AND THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT. THIS WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE LIGHT IS ACCEPTED AND EMBRACED. --- WHO IS THE LIGHT? --DO YOU HAVE THE LIGHT? -- --HAVE YOU COME TO HIM FULLY AND IN THE RIGHT WAY? ARE YOU/WE WEARING THE RIGHT ROBE TO COME TO THE FATHER'S WEDDING FEAST THAT HE HAS PREPARED FOR HIS SON? -- OR ARE SOME OF US SNEAKING INTO THE BANQUET WITHOUT THE RIGHT WEDDING GARMENTS ON? Remember what the Word of God, says that the one who tried to do this was detected and was cast out. IF YOU/WE HAVE THE LIGHT, WE NEED TO LET OUR GOSPEL LIGHT SHINE IN THE WORLD AND DRAW OTHERS OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM THROUGH THE DOOR...YESHUA HA MESSIACH... JESUS THE CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL OF LIGHT, NEW LIFE, AND TRUTH—righteousness, justice, peace, love, joy etc.

This Sunday in Christendom is a very special one, for not only is it the **first Sunday of the 2019**, but we also celebrate HOLY COMMUNION; and it marks the start of the season of EPIPHANY. Seven Sundays of the next eight, will be THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY. This simply means that the churches will focus on the REVELATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD AND THE EVENTS/ CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIM after His birth. So besides what we have heard from Isaiah about the LIGHT arising and shining upon us- the church and upon Israel; we see in Matthew 2: 1-12, THE WISE MEN (MAGIS) FROM THE EAST FOLLOWING THE NATAL STAR TO JERUSALEM. There they stopped to ask for information as to where the KING OF THE JEWS was born, for they had seen HIS STAR and was following it. THEY KNEW THEY WERE NEAR BUT WANTED TO "NARROW THE SEARCH." So, they asked King Herod how they might locate this Baby King. This drove fear into Herod as to his own power and position. However, he

consulted with his magicians, sages, and prophets. When they searched the prophecies, they determined that according to the SCRIPTURES, this King was to be born in BETHLEHEM OF JUDAH. The star that they were following was HIS NATAL STAR. King Herod then designed a plot to kill this RIVAL BABY KING. THE MAGIS/SHEPHERDS, WISE-MEN went on their way and found the Baby just as was prophesied. THEY BOWED DOWN AND WORSHIPPED HIM, AND PRESENTED HIM WITH GIFTS OF GOLD, FRINCINCENSE AND MYRRH. (Just as Isaiah prophesied) This moves us forward into what Paul had to say about his revelation knowledge, grace, and calling to shining light on the mystery of the Gospel foretold for ages but now coming to fruition.

PAUL tells us and told the church at Ephesus, that He, Paul ,was given a special GRACE to reveal and to impart the mystery of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST, which was prophesied and hidden for ages. He was given this Gift, this ENLIGHTENMENT, and this task directly through the Holy Spirit. HE WAS TO BRING THIS LIGHT TO THE GENTILES AND to THOSE LIVING IN THE DARKNESS OF SIN WITHOUT KNOWING THE TRUTH OF THE LIVING GOD. He, we, and the church are to HOLD OUT THE GOSPEL LIGHT TO THE NATIONS AND TO THE WORLD and make the WISDOM of God known. He was, and we are to preach the UNITY of the BODY OF CHRIST- FOR JESUS CAME TO MAKE ONE HUMANITY THROUGH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOSPEL OF GRACE THROUGH FAITH AND NOT BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW ALONE. Paul was given BOLDNESS and CONFIDENCE through FAITH and by DIVINE REVELATION. The Gospel of Christ brings those who believe and obey God's instruction to **the burial of the life of darkness and sin through baptism, TO NEW LIFE--ABUNDANT LIFE, & RESURRECTION LIFE.** Old things will pass away. Behold all things will become new! A new creature will arise out of the ashes. A new person with a new character, a new perspective on life with eternity in view will emerge. Priorities will change. Good works will begin. LIFE WILL BE TRANSFORMED FROM THE WORLD OF DARKNESS AND EXPLODE INTO THE MARVELOUS LIGHT.

If you have some light, please know that you can have more. If you have come half way to the Kingdom of God, but you are trying to sneak into the wedding banquet the Father has thrown for His Son, without wearing the right (spiritual)wedding garment, then make a decision today, to enter fully into THE LIGHT ACCORDING TO THE INSTUCTIONS AND EXAMPLE OF JESUS,

PETER, PAUL, JOHN, AND OTHERS IN SCRIPTURE. ENTER THROUGH THE DOOR. PUT ON CHRIST WHO LEADS ALL BELIEVERS THROUGH THE GATES AND INTO THE FATHER'S PRESENCE. This work is progressive and it is a process over time. Those who persevere will conquer and overcome. JESUS HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD. WE OVERCOME BY THE HIS BLOOD AND BY THE POWER OF OUR TESTIMONY. ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD. WE CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS US. SO DO NOT BE AFRAID TO RECEIVE THE LIGHT AND LET IT SHINE IN THE WORLD.

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE THAT ALL MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY (WHO? – YOU?—NO.) –YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY, HONOR, AND PRAISE! FOR THOSE WHO HAVE THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL, LET THE GOSPEL LIGHT SHINE THROUGH YOU. LET US GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THOSE WHO LET THEIR LIGHT SHINE. -- LET THE CHURCH ARISE! --LET GOD ARISE AND ALL HIS ENEMIES BE SCATTERED. --LET THE CHURCH ARISE AND SHINE... FOR OUR LIGHT HAS COME. MAY THE GLORY OF THE LORD BE SEEN UPON US! MAY THE WEALTH AND GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT AS WELL AS THE WEALTH OF THE NATIONS FLOW INTO US FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND FOR THE LIVES THOSE WHO HOLD OUT THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL ... I PRAY THESE BLESSINGS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS AND BY THE POWER AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. JEHOVAH GOD, LET IT BE SO FOR ALL WHO HAVE THE GOSPEL LIGHT AND LET IT SHINE EVERYWHERE UNTIL THY KINGDOM COME, AND THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

WE HAVE RECEIVED THE LIGHT. NOW LET HIM SHINE THROUGH US INTO THE WORLD AND UPON OTHERS TO DRAW THEM INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE ABUNDANT AND ETRNAL LIFE.

AMEN.

