

Advent 2: Waiting for the Light

Advent is a time of waiting, a time of anticipation, a time of hope. We look for the Light of the World, the One who is coming, the prophesied Messiah. Our bible begins in the Book of Genesis with these words:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

This reminds us of John’s gospel, which opens:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Greek word used for “overcome” is given as “understood” in some translations. Perhaps “mastered” might be a better word as it carries both senses, which of course are true.

Creation begins with God speaking the universe and our world into being from nothing. The Genesis authors didn’t know about the big bang theory but they were spot on! Likewise, Jesus comes into the spiritual darkness of our separation from God and brings us the Light of reconciliation through faith in Him and God who sent Him. Charles Wesley put it profoundly well in one of his great hymns:

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature’s night
Mine eye beheld a quickening ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
My chains fell off; my heart was free. I rose went forth and followed thee.*

May the light of Christ shine in your life this Christmas. *David Harwood LLM*