**Isaiah 52:7-10 (ESV)**

**7**How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” **8** The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. **9**  Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. **10**  The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**Hebrews 1:1-6 (ESV)**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. **5** For to which of the angels did God ever say,
“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?
Or again,
“I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?
**6** And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

**John 1:1-14 (ESV)**

**1**  In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3**  All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. **4**  In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5**  The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. **8**  He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. **9**  The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**“The Light Of Men”**

Intro: Changing light from candles, incandescent, halogen, and now LED. Life changed!

The baby born of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ is that life who is the light of men.

1. **Sin, death, and the Devil overwhelm life with darkness.**
2. Squeeze out the joy shared.
* In one fell swoop, Adam and Eve removed the life God gave. (Lost the Word)
1. Family glue falls apart.
* Israel became divided by idolatry and dishonesty. (Corrupted the Word)
1. Traditions die out.
* Times changed and who considered the birth of Christ? (Ignored The Word)
1. Blame goes around.
* “He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.” (Refused The Word)
1. **What we celebrate at Christmas then is that life who is light of men.**
2. The Father has sent His joy to the world. (laugh)
* St. Paul proclaims, “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son…” (Romans 8:3)
1. The fact is what Jesus bonds together never falls apart.
* “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”
1. The truth is Christ lasts longer than traditions of men.
* If the angels told the shepherds, “fear not” consider how the greater glory is Christ who comes in the Sacrament.
1. The life Jesus gives sets us free from the bondage of blame.
* As the only Son from the Father full of grace and truth forgiveness abides and so we forgive bearing with the times.

 Last night lights were on for Christmas Eve service, but those bulbs and wicks will need to be replaced. Jesus Christ is that life who is the light of men. His sacrifice has consumed all darkness declaring God’s light will never go out shining for those in darkness. Christmas celebrates annually that onetime miracle born of the Virgin Mary. Yet, the miracle best of all is God keeping the lights on for us in a sinful world. The day comes when Christ in full glory unwraps the gift He has already given to us. Amen. Now the peace of God that passes all understanding be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.