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Jordan Ministry Team
“To Proclaim the Savior”

In my travels throughout the diocese I have met a number of people for whom 2011 was a very difficult year. Losses, economic struggles, hardships and heartbreaks brought a variety of reactions; questions, struggles, and moments of confusion, among them. There is great faith here, and great hope, as well as struggles great and small. The image of the star of Bethlehem shining brightly was a tangible sign of hope to many who felt like their life was steeped in darkness.

This by itself is a very, very good reason that we welcome Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, as an infant. This is why he was born in helplessness and weakness. With so much to cause us anxiety, our God, who is power beyond power, might beyond might, comes to us in weakness, even helplessness. Not only does the God-man come to us without threat, he comes to us in need of our protection. The angels say to the shepherds, “Fear not.” We heard those words at Christmas, and we hold them close. Whatever the world may bring, this infant brings peace.

The hours of daylight in the days of January are few. In our lifetime the star of Bethlehem doesn't shine in the sky. The light of that star must shine in our time to give hope, but we must see it in a new way. Jesus said “let those who have eyes, see.” We have grown in our seeing the Christ child, to seeing Jesus the God-man, to the seeing and being the Body of Christ. So the light must be in us. We light each other's way with hope and peace.

I often think that ministers can have an easier time than others because we often get to be with people who want to grow in faith. It is our role to consciously, joyfully, and truthfully bring the message of the light of Christ to others. That means we are with people during joyous events as well as in difficult times. We enter the darkness of the night because we are confident that the star is shining, even if it is sometimes hidden. We shine for others, and welcome the light that others shine for us. Sometimes in the darkness we have to remind ourselves that the darkness is not the final answer. Sometimes if we want to see the star, we have to see with eyes of faith.