



Friday, 12/23/16

THE SON OF GOD APPROVED

READING: John 1:1-18

I stood in the back of the 75-year-old auditorium with my fellow choir members on a cold, snowy night. We were announced, the lights were dimmed and I joined candles with the one in front of me, lighting mine. As we walked down the aisle to the stage, our candles brightened the way and we sang:

O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

At the beginning of the book, John's gospel focus isn't on the physical – a teen mother and her betrothed, a census, the baby placed in a manger; instead, it immediately draws us into the spiritual aspect of things – Jesus' existence with the Father before time and space, our inheritance as children of God, and Jesus as life and light. As fallen human beings, we are caught in darkness until we seek a relationship with the One whose "life was the light of men" (vs.4) The candles of my choir lit the way as we sang about Emmanuel, "God with us", illustrating that Jesus lights the world and the "darkness has not overcome" His light. (vs.5) What is the practical outworking of this light in our lives, and how do we draw others into it? I believe it is essential for followers of Jesus to remain close to Him in all things, just as my friends and I clung to our candles to show us the way. I also think our interactions with others must be "full of grace and truth", following Jesus' example. (vs.14) This means that we don't compromise the truth of the gospel, but we present it humbly to those who don't yet have His light. This Christmas, may we stay close to the true Light and graciously share Him with others.

-Katie Husby