

Sunday, January 4, 2015
Rev. Diane Monti-Catania

Sermon - "Living As The Remnant"

Happy New Year!

It seems so fitting to have both the Old and New testament readings today start with the beginning.

Most of us think of this time of year as a fresh start, a new beginning.

What lies ahead for you? What might this year 2015 bring for you?

I spent this past week writing my final paper for last semester's class on the state of the church in our society. After slogging my way through hundreds of pages of sociological commentary on the role of religion in people's lives, I came away with one thought.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...Without Him not one thing came into being...The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

My conclusion is that regardless of what the sociologists think about religion – God is still here.

God is still here and deserves our worship, our reverence, our awe.

God is still here and we, created by God, are called to serve as best we can.

The Old Testament tells the story of the Hebrew people's relationship to God. Through creation, destruction, new creation, God remains loyal to the people of Israel. Today's psalm suggests that we 'sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving' for all of the blessings He has bestowed.

What I like about our readings today is that they don't include any people – our focus is strictly on God the Creator and Christ the Savior.

It is a reminder that the one who created the stars has a power far greater than we can understand. The one who existed at the beginning of time does not live by the limits that we place on ourselves.

We hear in Genesis that God created the light and it was good and then we hear from John that Jesus was that light brought into the world to overcome all darkness.