



THE CROSS and CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

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"Brothers and sisters, pray for us." 1 Thessalonians 5:25

Have you ever considered that God spoke light into the world three days before he created the sun and the stars? The account of light entering the world at God's Word, recorded in Genesis 1:3, is, in fact, the first prophecy foretelling Jesus' Advent. John records the fulfilment of this prophecy in his account of the creation: "In the beginning was the Word... The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." (John 1:1,9)

Jesus came into a world that had become dark, spiritually. It had been about 400 years since the last of the Old Testament prophets wrote. It's no surprise, then, that God announced his birth with a brilliant display of light: In the dead of night, the Glory of the Lord, an angel and a great company of the heavenly host appeared to shepherds, bringing them the Good News.



How inconceivably blessed we are that the Light that blazed through the world at Creation, that lit up the sky at the Annunciation, that restored light to a spiritually darkened world by his Advent, has made his home in us! God, who dwells in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16), dwells in us, walks with us, and shines through us. We need "never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

This Advent season, let's celebrate the light. Let every Christmas light you see serve as a reminder of the Light who entered the world – who entered our hearts – and who makes us a light to the lost around us. Let's remain in his light, reflect his light, and dispel the darkness around us.

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

(John 12:46)

Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!

Our desire is to be God's light in Philadelphia. Thank you for agreeing with us as we pray for:

- those in our city with inadequate heat and housing for this cold weather,
- more God's his Spirit, wisdom and direction,
- more grace and provision for the many challenges around us and ahead of us, and
- ministry planning and execution in the new year.







Once again, we ministered at City Hall this Advent season.

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Whether it's to share a prayer need, a praise report or a word of greeting or encouragement, please keep in touch. Hearing from you encourages us more than you know.

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did You Know?

There are at least 200 and, by some counts, up to 570 prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament.

Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. (Amos 3:7)



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