

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP MAAS

SHINING LIGHT



“No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand.”

In this dawning Epiphany season, with its connection to a New Year and the good intentions and resolutions that follow in its wake, these are good—if challenging—words to hear. They’re good words in that they’re a reminder that the light of Christ shines in and through each of us.

We have that certainty through the words tied to our Yet that promise is also the challenge—“Let your light shine so that others may see...” We don’t shine our light to deserve it, but because that’s its purpose. That’s OUR purpose—to let that light shine in the way we act, speak, live. We are light-bearers. Nothing can change that. And no one—particularly not God—sets something alight in order to hide it under a bushel basket.

So the invitation and challenge of this season is to SHINE.

Marianne Williamson writes, “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.” In her words, she summarizes the core issue for all of us who strive to live (or who recognize we are simply gifted to live) as disciples of Jesus. What we seem to fear most is the notion that we—each and every one of us—can make a real difference in the world, even if it’s through one person and one small act or word at a time.

In this Season of Light, in this New Year, take a cue from Nike and “just do it.” Let your light, your own beautiful, glowing, God-given light, shine. Find that one thing (or many things) each day that gives you pause but that you know would shine light for another, and just do it. Live out the promise and the call of your baptism. Enjoy sharing the gifts with which God has uniquely blessed you. Experience the joy of making a difference.

Let your light shine.