

Turn Towards the Light – Christ

I live on the seventh floor of our apartment building, surrounded by a forest in our living room. Some of the plants we've had for decades and are as tall as I am.

One enduring lesson I've learned from them is that they turn their leaves toward the light coming through our living room windows and away from the dark end of the room.

In Advent we hear much about repentance. Repentance tends to bring the odor of hell fire, of how bad we are, how we have failed.

I have two favorite pictures of the Greek word for repentance. One is to get a brain replacement. At my age when folks are getting replacements for hips, knees, why not for their brains as well.

But the more helpful picture is of turning towards. Away for sure from the darkness in our lives, both personal and in our culture and world. More importantly like my apartment forest it is turning towards Christ, who is the Light of the World.

In Christ we find forgiveness, healing, the strength to take on the darkness of the world, like Mary and Joseph the courage to say yes to the angels who challenge us to say yes to God's call. In the cross we find forgiveness and in the resurrection we find new life. We turn towards the world as Christ's people, acting on behalf of our siblings.

Often this turning towards the Light takes place in the wilderness, like Israel, like John the Baptizer, like Jesus, like Saul/Paul.

At a time when many are returning to the forest, to nature for healing, we thank God for the wilderness at Koinonia, where we continue to hear God's invitation to repent and turn to the Light – Christ.