

January 4 2016 "The Little Bang Theory" based on John 1:1-18

For many, January is a gloomy time.

- Holidays over, celebrations past, unfriendly weather coming.
- Mainline Church is losing members.

Gospel proclaims a new day emerging from dark times: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- God is first, it is with God that all things have their start, and Jesus is God's Word personified.
- We like to dwell in the past, but God calls us to start anew.
- In the lesson from Jeremiah, God prophesies out of the chaos and darkness comes life and light.
- Story about Marine major in WWII and the seasickness among new recruits. Conveys idea that Jesus came and showed us 'the way'.
- God, through Christ, offers us a way to follow through forgiveness, the way to follow, and the hope of eternal life. Offers it to everyone – the reluctant, poor, humble, church avoiders as well as the enthusiastic, rich, arrogant, church attenders, and generous.

So, let us start the new year of Sunday mornings with God, as it was in the beginning with God's Word of Jesus Christ. We start with the Word and Sacrament, filling us with joy and hope! May God's peace, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.