**Daily Prayer & Encouragement - 29th November 2020 –** Mike Orman

John 1:1-5

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

Today is the first Sunday in Advent, although it feels like Christmas has been upon us for a long time! There has been so much talk in the news about what Christmas might look like this year and I've heard many people reflecting on the fact 'Christmas won't be the same this year'. The virus continues to cast its shadow further over the year. BUT, THERE IS HOPE! And I don't mean in the form of a vaccine or a lifting of lockdown. There is a light that 'shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not [and cannot] overcome it'!

The world was living in spiritual darkness before Jesus' arrival on earth that very first Christmas. And into the darkness shone the Light of the World, changing the course of history and offering hope, life, forgiveness and rescue to all who call on His name.

Whatever challenges we face, whatever twists life takes, whatever the enemy tries to throw at us - none of it is a match for Jesus - The Word, who was with God in the beginning. It is Jesus who offers us hope in times of trial, light in our darkest moments and life in all its fulness.

As we enter this season of Advent - preparation for the arrival of Jesus, I would encourage us to fix our eyes on Jesus, The Word made flesh, God's rescue plan for humanity. Make spending time in God's word, spending time in worship and prayer a priority. There's no better way to spend time than with Him!

If you're not sure where to begin in prayer or worship today, may I suggest just starting with this song (or reflecting on the lyrics if you can't access the song): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE>

*Let's pray.*

*You were the Word at the beginning, One with God the Lord Most High*

*Your hidden glory in creation, Now revealed in You our Christ*

 *What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus Christ my King*

*What a beautiful Name it is, Nothing compares to this*

*What a beautiful Name it is The Name of Jesus*

*You didn’t want heaven without us, So Jesus You brought heaven down*

*My sin was great Your love was greater, What could separate us now*

*What a wonderful Name it is ,What a wonderful Name it is*

*The Name of Jesus Christ my King, What a wonderful Name it is Nothing compares to this*

*What a wonderful Name it is The Name of Jesus*

 *Death could not hold You, The veil tore before You,You silence the boast of sin and grave*

*The heavens are roaring The praise of Your glory,For You are raised to life again*

*You have no rival You have no equal, Now and forever God You reign*

*Yours is the kingdom Yours is the glory Yours is the Name above all names*

*What a powerful Name it is, What a powerful Name it is*

*The Name of Jesus Christ my King*

*What a powerful Name it is, Nothing can stand against*

*What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus Amen!*