

Why do we celebrate midnight mass on Christmas Eve?
Because of the light.

Coming as it does,
a few days after the shortest day of the year,
Christmas is all about the light.

Thanks to modern invention and the fire marshal.
We no longer light real candles for Christmas trees
and keep a bucket of water or sand nearby.

Instead, not just our trees but our houses
Our yards, even our Tv antennas are covered with lights.

Each one of those lights bear testimony to Christ.

For as the beginning of John's Gospel tells us,
When Christ was born, new light came into the world.

And that light was and is humanities light.

That light is not something foreign,
With Christ descending from heaven like a UFO
Like the giant spaceship
at the end of close encounters of the third kind.
Do dah de de doh.

For John,
that light shines in every human life
and even shines for those who refuse to receive it.

That's what light is like.

Light is unstoppable.

If you work the graveyard shift,
you can close your bedroom darkening blinds against it,
put on sunglasses,
or go up to the Arctic Circle in the land of endless night.

But even there eventually the light catches up with you.
Light is Unstoppable.

Light is also in the end undefinable.
We still don't know with all of our scientific knowledge
whether light is a wave or a particle

It seems to be a little of both,

and it's a mystery.

We can measure its speed at 186,000 mi./s. But that doesn't mean we can define it.

Light is a great mystery,
as mysterious as it is pervasive.

And so wi God's love.

It is unfathomable that someone could so love us,
and so surround us with love that never ends.

And so at Christmas light is the most appropriate symbol of God's love.

John Tells is that
at the end of the day,
Or more appropriately at it's Dawning,
All we have to do in order to live in this light of God's love,
is to receive it.

The true Christmas miracle.

Not a long journey on a donkey.
Not a star and three magi and Shepard's.

And not even,
as wonderful as she is,
the blessed virgin Mary,
without whose yes to God
none of this would've been possible.

Tonight,
It's all about the Sweet baby Jesus.

All eyes are on that baby in the manger.
And that is as it should be.

Silent night, holy night.
All is calm all is bright.

Merry Christmas.
Amen.