

# Keeping That Light Lit

## Rev. K Karpen

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

*Isaiah 60*

Late one evening I got one of those dreaded mid-winter phone calls, from Joe Branch at the front desk. “Rev. Karpen,” he began. I know there’s trouble when anybody calls me that. “There’s no heat in the building. The boiler’s not working.”

Fortunately, that turned out to be a simple problem with a simple solution. The pilot light was out. It needed to be ignited. All you do is push a button, marked Push Here. Even a preacher can do that.

One morning a few days later, another call. “There’s no hot water. The kitchen is going crazy.” What do you suppose the problem was this time? Yep. You guessed it, the pilot light.

The next situation was more serious. It was a week before Christmas, Charlene and I had invited 40 of the food pantry staff and volunteers to come have lunch at the parsonage, and our oven wouldn’t work. By now, I was on to these mechanical devices. “Just re-light the pilot light!” I told Charlene, proudly. “I did,” she said. “It didn’t work.”

Wow. That shot my repertoire as a repair guy. But when I took off the front panel at the bottom of the oven, it turned out it really was the pilot light. Hallelujah.

On Christmas Eve it was time to light the candles. The harpist was ready with Silent Night. The sanctuary spotlights were going out. Emily and I headed over to the Christ Candle in the center of the advent wreath. And there it was. Another pilot light.

And here we are in Epiphany, the season of Light. How wonderful to be reminded that “the true light that enlightens everyone is coming into the world.” How’s that for a pilot light?

May the light of Epiphany shine right through you this month, and always.