One day, on the road, I found the broken pieces of a mirror. A German motorcycle had been wrecked in that place. I tried to find all the pieces and put them together, but it was not possible, so I kept only the largest piece. This one. And by scratching it on a stone I made it round, with smooth edges.

I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun could never reach – in deep holes and crevices and dark closets. It became a game for me to get light into the most inaccessible places I could find.

“I kept the little mirror, and as I went about my growing up, I would take it out in idle moments and continue the challenge of the game. As I became a man, I grew to understand that this was not just a child’s game but a metaphor for what I might do with my life.

“I came to understand that I am not the light or the source of light. But light – truth, understanding, knowledge – is there, and it will only shine in many dark places if I reflect it.

“I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know.  Nevertheless, with what I have I can reflect light into the dark places of this world – into the dark places in the hearts of men and women – and change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise. This is what I am about. This is the meaning of life.”

This is also the meaning of Christmas! Our theme this Christmas is Psalm 36:9 – “In your light, we see light.” We are not the light, but the Light has come to us in Jesus, born in Bethlehem. We are invited to receive His Light, to celebrate and share His Light with one other, and to reflect His light into the dark corners of the world.

Individually, we may reflect only a small bit of light into the darkness, but joined together our lights can reflect God’s light into the darkness of a weary world. The world desperately needs the light Jesus offers: the light of love, the light of compassion, the light of kindness, the light of justice, and the light of understanding. Reflecting His light provides the meaning for our lives. Be children of the light! Reflect His light to those around you. Shine His light into the dark spaces, and fill them with God’s love, compassion, kindness, justice, and understanding.

Prayer: Light of the World, come to us now. Shine into each of our hearts tonight, that we may truly see The Light. May your light burn so beautifully within us that we can’t help but share the Light of your love with others. In your precious name, Amen.

**Reflect the Light**

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023 (5PM)

Federated Church, Fergus Falls, MN

*In your light, we see light.*

Psalm 36:9

Robert Fulghum, a minister, author, poem, tells a story about a seminar he took with a professor of ancient Greek Philosophy, Dr. Popadopolis. At the end of the lecture the professor asked, “Are there any questions?” Fulghum raised his hand and asked, “What’s the meaning of life?” The class laughed, but the professor could see by the look on Fulghum’s face that it was a serious question.

Dr. Popadopolis said, “I will tell you my answer to that question*,”* and he opened his wallet and pulled out a small piece of glass. And then he told this story: “When I was a small child, during the war, we were very poor, and we lived in a remote village.