

LENT 4 – A
Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King
March 21-22, 2020

Today we live like the man born blind. We are in the dark about what lies ahead with this pandemic. We are trying to do our best to assure that we don't contribute to its wild spread.

Years ago, during a visit to Jerusalem, I walked through a long underground tunnel full of fresh-flowing water from the Gihon Spring. The tunnel was built by King Hezekiah 700 years before Christ, and it kept the water supply safe from enemies – especially during a seige. The tunnel ended at what was then the heart of city, the Pool of Siloam – the location of today's Gospel story.

I set out on my solitary trek in the darkness of the tunnel. The water in the tunnel was high, about chest level, and it was cold. I had been told where I would end up, but once I set out I was on my own. The darkness of the unknown and the solitude of the hike caused me to think about life – the darkness and loneliness of so much that is unknown in life – and the crazy thinking that so often causes us to fear, even panic.

The tunnel went on and on – the water flowed by me and pushed me forward. There was no turning back. And then, away in the distance, I saw a wee light. As I made my way along through the tunnel, the light grew – little by little – until the water gushed out into a sparkling pool – the Pool of Siloam. It was a real baptismal experience – new

birth, new life, bright light, new hope. Light, water, healing, wholeness – life! This is the experience of Jesus Christ for us.

We are that man born blind – we long to see. In the midst of our darkness – the darkness of these days, of this scary time we are in – we put our trust in the one who is our Light, and our Life. And we watch out for and pray for healing and hope, for our family and friends, for neighbours, for the courageous healthcare providers, for those who are reaching out to the poor and needy, for those who are sick, and for those who have died.

And we keep our eyes wide open for “the light at the end of the tunnel”.
Jesus is our hope in times of trial!