**Date**: 1/5/20

**Scripture Text**: Isaiah 6:1-7; 60:1-5

**Series:** Encountering Christ—At the Crossroads

**Sermon Title**: Encounter: The Light of the World

**Catching Up**

* Optional: Have each person share a “hi” and a “low” from the week (*recommended for newer groups*) or take prayer requests and spend some time praying for one another (*recommended for established groups*).
* Pray.
* Take a few minutes to read the Scripture text above (you may want to have each person read a paragraph around the table until the text is complete).
  + Did anything stand out to you or did you sense God speaking to you in Scripture reading today or during the service on Sunday?

**Growing Deep**

* In the sermon it was pointed out that the first thing Isaiah noticed after he seen God’s glory was the reality of human sinfulness. From this point forward Isaiah defined sinfulness by comparing people to God not comparing people to one another.
  + What are ways we fall into the trap of comparing people to one another in the way we think of good and evil, sin and rightness (or righteousness)?
* Isaiah’s vision of God’s glory not only revealed the depth of human sinfulness but the depth of human value. The glory that seems to condemn sinners in Isaiah 6 is the same glory that seems to be in sinners in Isaiah 60—a glory which they “shine” and by which they become “radiant”
  + What are ways we assign more or less value to people?
  + How do we find a balance between recognizing that everyone is infinitely valuable while recognizing, given our limitations, can’t practically love or invest in everyone? In other words, how do we prioritize and focus our investments in people to show them their value without *devaluing others.*

**Branching Out**

* It was pointed out in the sermon that our divisive culture people tend to idealize “us” and “demonize” them (and this can apply to many “us vs. them” groupings).
  + How can Christians practice peacemaking in a culture like this?
  + How does a vision of God’s glory—revealing us all as equally sinful and equally valuable before a holy God—inform the way we speak the truth in love to people we disagree with politically, socially, religiously or otherwise?
  + How can we cultivate the kind of language that honors people as God’s image-bearers in our homes, society, workplace, etc.?