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## Where is the gift in this?

Perhaps you have asked yourself as I have recently "Where is the gift in this?"

In deeply troubled times or even simply troubled times when the waters are muddied, and the future is bleak... Where is the glint in the sand?... the piece of beach glass that you might turn over in your fingers speculating on an artistic creation that lies within its being.

My younger brother by ten years received a terminal cancer diagnosis 4 weeks ago. He will soon go to hospice. This decision was made as he "accepted" that he is dying. Like birthing this was not an easy process. Just like a pebble thrown in a pond, a loved one's death creates thoughts and feelings in the community of family and the friends touched by him.

There is no perfect ending just as there was no perfect life. The gift comes in little ways... a tiny, shared memory arrives that brings some brief moment of pleasure. The anger gives way to times of pleasant communion. The pain is subdued by morphine. He accepts a visit by a spiritual advisor! Like the sun refracted through the stain glass window, splinters of Hope emerge. As hospice allows visitors ... he is very lonely and yearns for others. The light is not going out in him; in the moment his desire is to see friends and family.

This is life and light. Our gift is this day given to us to live wisely and shed Christ's light on others.

*"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is Light and in Him there is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5 NIV*

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*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us and helps make the world a better place.  
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

