If we are called to be the eyes and ears and the hands and feet of Christ, then we are called to reflect God’s Glory in our lives. Who do you see the glory of God in? Moses asked not for riches, fame, long-life, etc. but only to see the Glory of God. (Ex. 33). God granted Moses’ request and when he came down from the presence of God his face reflected and shone with God’s glory (Ex. 34:29). The people knew he had been in the presence of God.

Job, in the midst of loss and sickness will not turn away from God. He will continue to have his life reflect the Glory of God through his faith and his actions. In the end God confirms Job’s reflection of his glory (42:8b). Are we reflecting God’s glory?

Our call is to let Christ be reflected through us. We are not God (although I think many in our world today feel they are called to be God). It was a freeing moment for me in my calling when I realized that I was not called to be God. My call was simply to reflect God/Christ’s love and grace to the world. It was not my calling to judge the world or the actions of others. I have been called to love the world as Christ has loved me. I have been called to be a reflection of Christ’s love and grace to the world. It makes my life a lot easier. I am able to love more, forgive more and leave the rest in the hands of God.

The writer of Hebrews begins by telling his readers that Christ was the “exact imprint of God’s very being”. Christ is the true reflection of God’s glory - who God is. The image had been marred through the centuries and Christ comes to demonstrate to the world the true nature of God. The One who took part in the creation of the world now stands in the midst of his creation.

* A child born of a woman in a stable in Bethlehem
* A child refugee in Egypt
* A son, growing up in Nazareth working in a carpenter’s shop
* One who took children in his arms and who welcomed women as persons of worth
* One who went to those who stood outside the circle of Israel and invited them in
* One who saw all people as lovable and worthy of God’s grace

And, he died because he called for peace, hope and forgiveness for all people.

I thought of some of the images of Pope Francis and his visit to the United States. He seemed to smile the most when he was around children and the poor. He was willing to turn down a luncheon with Congressional leadership in order to visit a soup kitchen and interact with some of the poorest of the poor. There he was reflecting the glory of Christ - the very image of God. Is this not our calling?

We are only reflections of the true light. We only reflect the love and grace that we have found in Christ. My best image for this is of the moon. You know last Sunday we had a super moon (whatever that is). But the moon is a cold, barren rock floating in space. It has no power source. We could say it is like a light bulb. It is no good without a power source. We can have all the light bulbs in the world and if we do not have a source of power they do us no good. Yet, when the power comes, when the moon reflects the light from the sun we stand in awe at its beauty. Max Lucado in his book, It’s Not About Me, writes this about the moon:

What does the moon do? She generates no light. Contrary to the lyrics of the song, this harvest moon cannot shine on. Apart from the sun, the moon is nothing more than a pitch-black pockmarked rock. But properly positioned, the moon beams. Let her do what she was made to do, a clod of dirt becomes a source of inspiration, yea, verily romance. The moon reflects the greater light.”
But, if it is a cloudy night we see no reflection. Even the smallest cloud can obscure its light. Compare that to the sun. Even on the most cloudy days we have light!

Our light is the Light of Christ - The Greater light came in Christ. Jesus says in John 8:12 “I am the Light of the world…” We are not the light, Jesus is. We have been called to be the reflection of that light. We can only reflect that light if we are open to the power source - Christ. Often our reflection is diminished because of clouds in our lives, sin. We get angry. We fail to love and forgive as Christ would. We fail to act like Christ. Christ came to bring us back to the true light that we might reflect the true Glory of God to the whole world.

We are called to reflect God’s glory. Later in Hebrews the writer reminds us of the great cloud of witnesses that have reflected God’s glory through the ages. None were perfect, all had their flaws but in difficult times and circumstances they reflected for all the Glory of God - God’s love and grace.

As we come to this Table and as we share together - two congregations - for a moment we are one together in Christ. We reflect God’s glory to the world that we might be One in Christ. God’s invitation to come.

Allow me one last image. It is of Seoul at night. As I looked out over the city I saw on the tops of many buildings a shining red cross. They were shining for the city to see - and for me it was a reminder that we are called to reflect God’s glory not only through the crosses on our buildings but through our daily word and actions. May all that we do reflect God’s glory.