

**Tamworth and Lichfield Circuit
Worship at Home : 19th June 2022
This resource has been prepared for us by Brian Whitehouse**



A call to worship

Light of the world, shining in darkness,
Open our eyes to see your light.
Light of the world, dwelling among us,
Open our eyes to live in your light.
Light of the world, guiding your people,
Open our eyes to walk by your light.

Light of the world, freeing the captive,
Open our eyes to rejoice in your light.
Light of the world, offering blessing,
Open our eyes to receive your light.
Light of the world, reflecting God's glory,
Open our eyes to bathe in your light. Amen.

Hymn StF - 49 Lord the light of your love is shining

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

A prayer of praise

Praise God who makes heaven and earth
Praise God who makes the heavens and the earth.
Praise to God who is our light and life.

God of all things, we thank you for all that you have made: for the beauty of the world, for sights and sounds; for sweetness and salt, for wild places and the safety of home.

Praise God who makes the heavens and the earth.
Praise to God who is our light and life.

God of our imagination, we thank you for the mystery of the human mind; for invention and thought, for possibility and delight; that you created mountain tops and put in us the will to climb them; that you are present in all things and put in us the faith to find you.

Praise God who makes the heavens and the earth.
Praise to God who is our light and life.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!*

God of peace, we thank you for the Prince of Peace, for whose coming we wait.
for family life, and the wider family of friendship; for all that brings your love into our lives, we thank you.
Praise God who makes the heavens and the earth.

Praise to God who is our light and life.
Praise to God who loves all people. Amen.

Isaiah 19:16-25

In that day the Egyptians will become weaklings. They will shudder with fear at the uplifted hand that the LORD Almighty raises against them. And the land of Judah will bring terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom Judah is mentioned will be terrified, because of what the LORD Almighty is planning against them. In that day five cities in Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the LORD Almighty. One of them will be called the City of the Sun. In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the heart of Egypt, and a monument to the LORD at its border. It will be a sign and witness to the LORD Almighty in the land of Egypt. When they cry out to the LORD because of their oppressors, he will send them a saviour and defender, and he will rescue them. So, the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians, and in that day they will acknowledge the LORD. They will worship with sacrifices and grain offerings; they will make vows to the LORD and keep them. The LORD will strike Egypt with a plague; he will strike them and heal them. They will turn to the LORD, and he will respond to their pleas and heal them. In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. The LORD Almighty will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance."

Hymn StF 170 Darkness like a shadow comes to earth

Darkness Like A Shroud Covers The Earth;
Evil Like A Cloud Covers The People.
But The Lord Will Rise Upon You,
And His Glory Will Appear On You-
Nations Will Come To Your Light.

*Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come,
The Glory Of The Lord Has Risen On You!
Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come,
Jesus The Light Of The World Has Come.*

Children Of The Light, Be Clean And Pure.
Rise, You Sleepers, Christ Will Shine On You.
Take The Spirit's Flashing Two-Edged Sword
And With Faith Declare God's Mighty Word;
Stand Up And In His Strength Be Strong.

*Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come,
The Glory Of The Lord Has Risen On You!
Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come,
Jesus The Light Of The World Has Come.*

Here Among Us Now, Christ The Light
Kindles Brighter Flames In Our Trembling Hearts.
Living Word, Our Lamb, Come Guide Our Feet
As We Walk As One In Light And Peace,
Till Justice And Truth Shine Like The Sun.

*Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come,
The Glory Of The Lord Has Risen On You!
Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come,
Jesus The Light Of The World Has Come.*

Like A City Bright So Let Us Blaze;
Lights In Every Street Turning Night To Day.
And The Darkness Shall Not Overcome
Till The Fulness Of Christ's Kingdom Comes,
Dawning To God's Eternal Day.

*Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come,
The Glory Of The Lord Has Risen On You!
Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come,
Jesus The Light Of The World Has Come.*

A prayer of Light

God our creator, at the beginning of time, when the earth was still formless, you said,
'Let there be light', and there was light, and it was good.

Let Christ shine on us.

Through Jesus, the light of the world, you used mud to give healing to the blind,
and his own presence to enlighten the minds of those who received him.

Let Christ shine on us.

You call us, today and every day, to live as children of the light, saying:

'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

We hear your call. We are awake and alert for you.

Let Christ shine on us.

Reflection

THE LORD WILL REVEAL HIMSELF TO THE PEOPLE.

Light and darkness are major parts of our daily lives whether it be night and day, white and black, love and hate. Many aspects of our lives are spoken of in terms of light and dark so it is no surprise that the theme of light and dark has dominated religious thinking since man first walked on this earth.

Some years ago I was on holiday in Paris and on the Sunday morning I visited the great cathedral of Notre Dame. I was simply a tourist and not a member of the congregation even though a service was taking place. At one stage the sermon was taking place and it meant nothing to me as my French was not that good. However, even my schoolboy French picked up one sentence I did understand – “Je suis la Lumiere de la monde” – I am the light of the world – Out of my ignorance there was suddenly light – the message had got through to at least one tourist!

Isaiah often spoke, at various times, about how the word of God would come to all the nations of the earth – that even the enemies of Israel – the Egyptians and Assyrians - would one day be included in God’s kingdom. This passage in Chapter 19 shows that race, power, gender and age gives no one privileged status in the eyes of God nor do they deny access to His kingdom. The passage reminds us that we are all equal in the sight of God and therefore wanted by God to share in His love and kingdom.

God is for all people and Isaiah tells this on several occasions – He saw barriers between enemies being broken down and that people would one day unite in love and peace. It is that theme that Jesus brought to us – that through Him and the Holy Spirit love peace and brotherhood would bring light to a darkened world. “The people living in darkness will see a great light” – words from Isaiah that were echoed by Matthew so many years later with the latter knowing that the light was Our Lord Jesus. Writing about this on commentator remarked “how clearly this was envisioned by God’s great prophet.”

God leads us to Him and into His light as he invites us all to share in the gospel of Jesus Christ – In Jesus we find the true light of life and the way to live that leads us to the Kingdom of God. The entire New Testament is the light in which we see our way forward – it is the light in our darkness because it calls us into the love and service of the Suffering Servant – Our Lord Jesus.

However, in finding our way into the wondrous love that Jesus brings us there is also a challenge and a calling to be answered – for others to find that same love we have to be the beacons of light in an often dark world. We have to take the message of Christ into a materialistic and selfish world where “I” comes before “us” and “me” comes before “we”. To achieve the mission Christ calls us to means opening our church doors, it means challenging ourselves and our own pre-conceptions of what it is to love and serve the community around us. It means serving the needy, the poor, the prisoner, the druggie, the outcasts of society. It means opening our hearts and minds to the needs of others – to be lights in other people’s darkness.

In Isaiah 42 the prophet writes how God will make a new covenant with all the nations, not just the people of Israel. He prophesies that the nations will be brought into the light of God. In Chapter 49 God tells Isaiah that he will be a light to the nations so that all the world will be saved. We, today, are called to fulfil that prophesy. Like Isaiah we are the servants of God and in our lives we must show the love and compassion that Jesus showed to all he met. We are the servants of the Lord – the bringers of light into the dark corners of life.

We, who know the love and grace of God are called to play for team God where the winning is bringing the light of Christ into the lives of others. We are called to show love and compassion to all we meet, to be the candle in the darkness of others. To do this we have to be a visible church, an outgoing and outreaching church. We must be as Isaiah said “A Light to the nations, so that His salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” **Amen**

Hymn StF 397 – The Spirit lives to set us free

The Spirit lives to set us free,
Walk, walk in the light.
He binds us all in unity,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.

Jesus promised life to all,
Walk, walk in the light.
The dead were wakened by his call,
Walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.

He died in pain on Calvary,
Walk, walk in the light.
To save the lost like you and me,
Walk, walk in the light.
*Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.*

We know his death was not the end,
Walk, walk in the light.
He gave his Spirit to be our friend,
Walk, walk in the light.

*Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.*

The Spirit lives in you and me,
Walk, walk in the light;
His light will shine for all to see,
Walk, walk in the light.
*Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.*

Intercessional Prayers

God of light and of darkness, we pray for people who cannot see light:
for people who because of prejudice cannot see truth,
and for people who because of many problems cannot see a way ahead,
that you will be light for all who cannot see light.

God of light and of darkness, we pray for people carrying heavy responsibilities:
people who in the light of Christ work to create peace,
strive to create a better health service,
a better police force and better schools;
people who seek to bring the truth of Christ to caring for those unable to care for themselves,
and to children and young people vulnerable to bad influences,
that you will be light for all who carry heavy responsibilities.

God of light and of darkness, we pray for your church throughout the world:
for the church where few people are interested in a truth outside themselves;
for the church where the light of Christ seems not as bright as other lights;
for the church where your people feel uncertain of the truth;
that you will be light and truth renewing your church,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen.**

Hymn StF 469 I watch the sunrise

I Watch the Sunrise Lighting The Sky,
Casting Its Shadows Near.
And On This Morning Bright Though It Be,
I Feel Those Shadows Near Me.

*But You Are Always Close To Me
Following All My Ways.
May I Be Always Close To You
Following All Your Ways, Lord.*

I Watch the Sunlight Shine Through The Clouds,
Warming The Earth Below.
And At The Mid-Day, Life Seems To Say:

Blessing

May the love of the Lord rest upon you,
May His light dwell in you throughout every day
May His countenance shine upon you and be gracious unto you
May His Spirit rest upon you now and always
Amen

I Feel Your Brightness Near Me.
For You Are Always . . .

I Watch the Sunset Fading Away,
Lighting The Clouds With Sleep.
And As The Evening Closes Its Eyes,
I Feel Your Presence Near Me.
For You Are Always . . .

I Watch the Moonlight Guarding the Night,
Waiting till Morning Comes.
The Air Is Silent, Earth Is At Rest
Only Your Peace Is Near Me.
Yes, You Are Always...