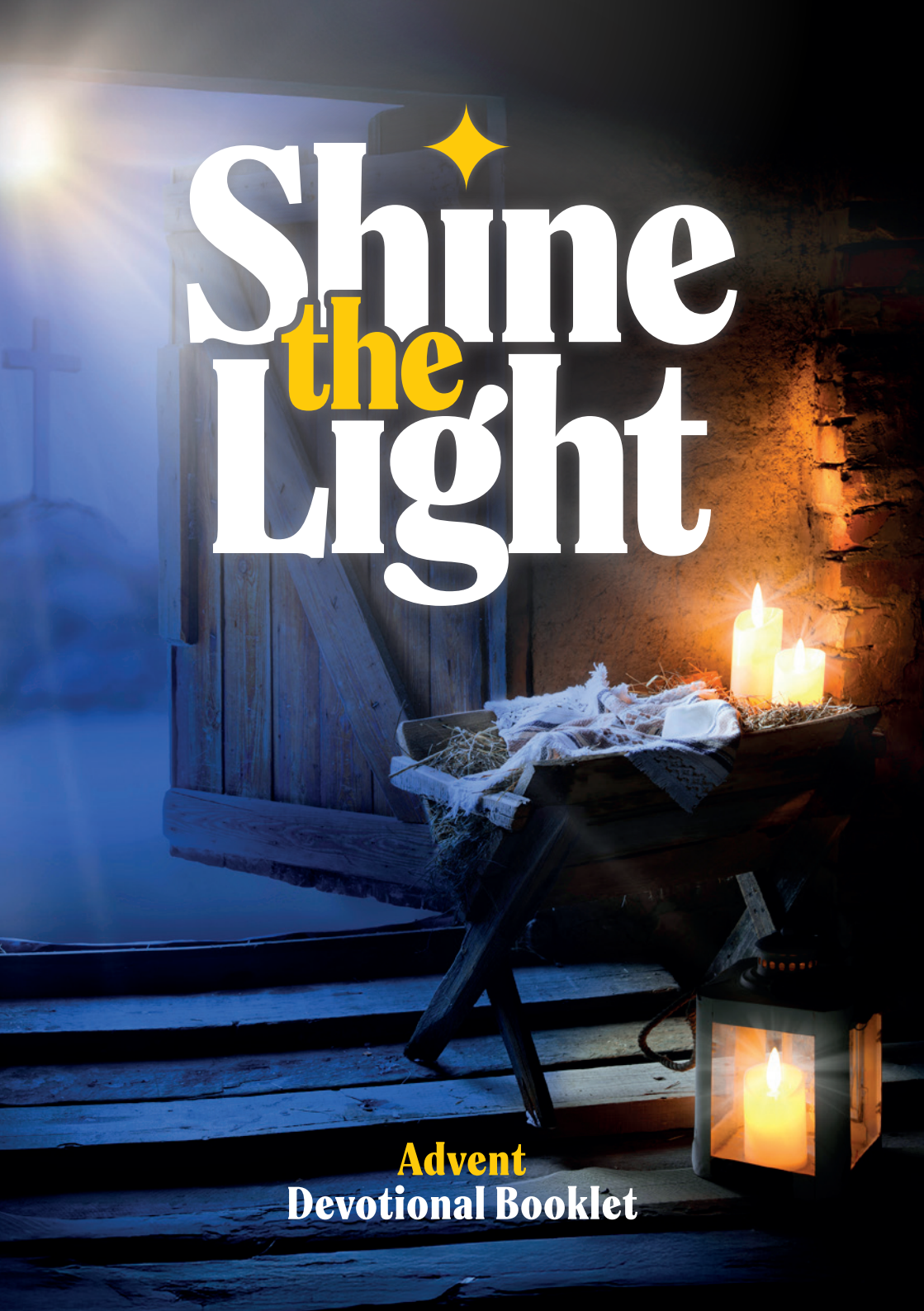


The background image is a dark, atmospheric scene. On the left, a wooden manger is visible, partially obscured by the text. To the right of the manger, two lit candles sit on a small wooden stand. In the foreground, a lantern with a single lit candle inside is positioned on the floor. The overall lighting is dim, with the primary light sources being the candles and the lantern, creating a warm, intimate glow. The text 'Shine the Light' is overlaid on the scene, with 'Shine' and 'Light' in white and 'the' in yellow. A small yellow star is placed above the 'i' in 'Shine'.

Shine the Light

Advent
Devotional Booklet

Shine the Light

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and continues to Epiphany on January 6th. Christmas lights have started to appear in our homes, decorating our yards, in shopping centres and seem to be illuminating our lives telling us something important is coming. Society tends to concentrate on the coming of Christmas with presents, food and holidays. As Christians we look to the coming of the 'Light of the World', 'the Glory of God' and the 'star' guiding us to the baby Jesus born for the world. The Bible mentions the word 'light' over 535 times. Light is a symbol of holiness, goodness, knowledge, wisdom, grace, hope and God's revelation of the coming Saviour.

Each day of these devotionals, the focus will be on a different passage of the Bible relating to God's light in His story and plan for the World. From the beginning of Genesis 1, where God created light and the 'lights' in the sky, to the last verse of Revelation where God is the light reigning forever; we will explore the significance of 'light'. May these devotions expand your knowledge of God's grace and love as you live in God's light. Each devotion contains a short reflection, Bible reading and prayer. I would encourage you to read the Bible readings along with the devotion as you see God's glory as we **Shine the Light**.

**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE
TO THOSE AROUND YOU!**

Contents

Let There Be Light (Genesis 1:1-5)	4	Turn on Your Light (Luke 15:8-10)	25
Light to Guide (Exodus 13:21-22)	5	God's Chemical Reaction (John 1:1-9)	26
The Lord's Blessing (Numbers 6:24-26)	6	Living in the Light (John 3:16-21)	27
Burning My Lamp (Psalm 18:25-32)	7	Light of Life (John 8:12-16)	28
Radiance (Psalm 19:1-11)	8	Jesus Is the Light (John 9:4-5)	29
Ultimate Power Source (Psalm 27:1-5)	9	Children of the Light (John 12:35-36)	30
God's Nourishment (Psalm 36:5-9)	10	The Light for Everyone (Acts 13:44-49)	31
Shining Brightly (Psalm 89:5-18)	11	Proclaiming Light (Acts 26:19-23)	32
A Light for Our Path (Psalm 119:105-112)	12	Shining God's Light (2 Corinthians 4:1-6)	33
Clarity of Understanding (Psalm 119:129-135)	13	Candlelit Candelabra (Ephesians 5:8-14)	34
Night Is as Day to God (Psalm 139:7-12)	14	Kingdom of Light (Colossians 1:9-14)	35
Look to the Sunrise (2 Samuel 23:1-5)	15	God's L.E.D. Light (2 Timothy 1:7-10)	36
The Peace Child (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)	16	Father of Lights (James 1:17-18)	37
Peaceful Light (Isaiah 45:5-8)	17	Transformational (1 Peter 2:9-10)	38
God's Lighthouse (Isaiah 60:1-3)	18	It's All About Light (1 John 1:5-9)	39
Revealer of Mysteries (Daniel 2:19-23)	19	Eternal Light (Revelation 21:22-26)	40
Race of Life (Micah 7:7-9)	20	Absence of Darkness (Revelation 22:1-6)	41
King of Day and Night (Zechariah 14:6-9)	21	Prayer	42
Illumination (Matthew 5:14-16)	22	Lord's Prayer & Luther's Morning & Evening Prayer	43
Shine Out Jesus' Love (Luke 8:16-18)	23		
Eyes are Lamps (Luke 11:33-36)	24		



Let There Be Light

1st Sunday in Advent

Read: Genesis 1:1-5

***“God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness.”
Genesis 1:4 (NIV-UK)***

Watching TV one evening after dinner, suddenly everything went dark – the power went off. What is the first thing we all went to look for? Torches, candles and matches to bring light to the darkness. I don't mind the darkness when I am sleeping, but when I am awake, I don't like the dark. There is something scary of not being able to see what is around.

The first thing that God created on the first day was light. Everything was dark and it was formless, but God wanted more... so 'light' was created and God said that the light was good. Light is necessary for making all of God's creative works visible and makes life possible. Even creatures that live in the nighttime adapt to 'see' in the dark. Both day and night belong to the Lord. But it is the light that brings life. I found a quote about light from the National Geographic: *“Light reveals the world to us. Body and soul crave it. Light sets our biological clocks. It triggers in our brains the sensations of colour. Light feeds us, supplying the energy for plants to grow. It inspires us with special effects like rainbows and sunsets. Light gives us life-changing tools, from incandescent bulbs to lasers and fibre optics. Scientists don't fully understand what light is or what it can do. They just know it will illuminate our future.”*

But within the darkness before light, we read that already God's Spirit was 'hovering', ready for action as soon as God spoke the words. When you feel that you are in the dark physically or figuratively, know that God's Spirit is there 'hovering' to care for you and lead you into the light. Before light was created everything was a void; dark and deep. Then in Revelation 21:1, 25, in the end times, God tells us there will be no more darkness and no more deepness – God will illuminate everything. This Advent season remember that God is there bringing you His light and order into your life.

God is at work in your life... and sometimes you get to see it!

Prayer: My Heavenly Father, all you had to do was speak the words to bring life and light into the world. Light my life this Advent season to see you at work in and through me. Use me to bring light to others. Amen.



Light to Guide

1st Monday in Advent

Read: Exodus 13:21-22



“By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light,” Exodus 13:21a (NIV)

Fireflies are incredible little insects. I first came across them while camping one summer with my family in Pennsylvania. The little firefly causes a light to glow in its body through a chemical reaction called bioluminescence, which is primarily used to attract the male of the species. Our children had fun catching them in their hands and seeing the glow that shone through their fingers. It was a small bright light that then lit up the darkness and they ran around chasing and following these tiny lights.

The people of Israel had left slavery in Egypt and were being led by Moses to the Promised Land. The people having lived in Egypt knew all the Egyptian gods but didn't have a personal relationship yet with the true God of Heaven and Earth. To help the people and Moses know that the God of Israel was with them leading and guiding them and never leaving them, God promised to have a pillar of cloud by day for them to see and follow and a pillar of fire by night to light their way in the darkness. It was a visible sign of God's presence among His people, and it never left them. In Bible pictures we see a huge fire and a huge cloud, but we are not told how big. But even a small light in the darkness is enough to follow.

Even a small light, like a firefly, takes away the darkness and allows us to see and follow! The Bible is filled with the figurative language of Jesus being the 'light of the world.' It illustrates to us that knowing Jesus and His Father God is to never live in darkness. Knowing Him and His love we are always able to see where we are going. He lights our way and guides us through our lives – like Moses and the Israelites – God's presence leads us finally to the Promised Land of Heaven.

Follow the guiding light of God through knowing His love in the Bible.

Prayer: Lord, you lead me through so many dark places of my life. Light up the way so that I can follow you in all I do. May I always follow your guiding light. Amen.





The Lord's Blessing

1st Tuesday in Advent

Read: Numbers 6:24-26

“The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you” Numbers 6:25 (NIV)

Rising out of the desert and towering over the Indian village is a high mountain. Only the very strong can climb it, so all the boys of the village were eager to try. One day the chief said, “Now, boys, today you may try to climb the mountain. Each of you go as far as you can. When you are too tired to go on, come back. But I want each of you to bring me a twig from the place where you turned back.”

Very soon a boy came puffing back with a piece of cactus. The chief smiled. “My boy, you did not even reach the foot of the mountain. Cactus is a desert flower.”

Later a second boy returned with a twig of sagebrush. “Well, at least you reached the foot of the mountain.”

The next boy came back with a cottonwood twig. “Good! You climbed as far as the springs.”

Another boy came back with some buckthorn. “You were really climbing. You got up to the first slide rock.”

An hour afterward, one boy came back with a branch of pine. To him the chief said, “Good! You made three-quarters of the climb.”

The sun was low in the sky when the last boy returned. His hands were empty, but his face was shining. He said, “Father, there were no trees where I was. I saw no twigs, but I saw a shining sea.”

Now the old chief's face glowed too. “I knew it! When I looked at your face, I knew it. You have been to the top. You needed no twig to tell me. It is written in your eyes. You alone, my boy, have seen the glory and the peace of the mountain.” [Story by Catherine Marshall]

The very same thing happens to you and to me when we have been with our Father in Heaven and have talked to Him in prayer and felt His presence in our hearts. It shows on our faces. It shines in our eyes.

Keep climbing! We show God's shining face when we know Him – this is His blessing to us.

Prayer: Thank you for blessing me with your peace and love. Thank you that you shine your face on me and in turn my face shines to others showing your love. Amen.



Burning My Lamp

1st Wednesday in Advent

Read: Psalm 18:25-32



“You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.”

Psalm 18:28 (NIV)

How much we take for granted in our technologically advanced world! After my grandmother passed away in 1978, my father gave me the oil lamp that had been sitting on her sideboard and had been used for many years as the ‘Sunday’ lamp. It was the lamp that had been given to them for their wedding in 1926. It was called the ‘Sunday’ lamp as that was the only time it was used. When we got married, I decided to get this lamp working again as it had been unused for many years. Firstly, it needed to be cleaned from dust and any soot. We needed to find a chimney and some wicks (double wicked) and then had to find some oil that didn’t smoke. Finally, we got it burning and used it as our ‘Sunday’ lamp, until children came.

We read about lamps in the Bible and how we are to keep our lamps burning. As I said earlier, we take a lot for granted. Turning on a light switch in no way relates to the work it takes to maintain and keep a lamp usable. Depending on the type of oil used, the lamp chimney needs constant cleaning from the soot. If it is not cleaned and the wick trimmed, seeing and reading by its light is extremely difficult.

In Psalm 18 we read about all the work God does in keeping our lamps shining bright. He is faithful to us. He shows Himself as blameless and pure and perfect, so we know that He is the one to follow. He tells us His stories and shows us His love. He protects us from the evil around us. God does all this to help our light shine. This brings us out of darkness and into His incredible light. God did all the work through Jesus in sending His Son to earth and be the light to follow. Jesus is the way, the truth and the light!

Rely on God to keep your lamp burning, lighting your way through each day.

Prayer: Lord God, you have done all the work to bring me into your amazing love and presented me with unfailing grace and peace. Help me keep my lamp burning for you to share and light the way for others. Amen.





Radiance

1st Thursday in Advent

Read: Psalm 19:1-11

“The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.” Psalm 19:8 (NIV)

The sun is the star at the heart of our solar system. The gravity from the sun holds the solar system together, keeping everything – from the biggest planet we know of in the Solar System (Jupiter) to the smallest pieces of debris – in its orbit. The connection and interactions between the sun and the earth create the seasons, ocean currents, weather, climate and all life. And... God made this sun and all the solar system and Universe. He created it to provide light and life to the Earth.

The Psalmist David speaks of God's commands as being radiant. This word usually relates to rays being emitted from the sun providing a light that shines and dazzles. The Word of God is light to the world that brings life and light to all His people. His commands are clear, pure and enlightening, giving light to our eyes that bring understanding and belief to our hearts. These commands are not just to be followed but are a source of light that guides us to a life that is pleasing to God.

The Bible verse above from Psalm 19:8 points to the authority of God's Word in the Bible. From the very beginning of creation when God spoke and it was done and 'It was very good'; to God sending His Son for the sake of all humankind – God is the only true authority. God's Word is not only true, but it is right. God's Word has authority because God has authority. God's way is not only right but it is the best as it guides us into the light of truth. This Psalm speaks in picture language to help us understand that everything He does is with us in mind. Take God's Words to your heart, mind and soul and worship the Maker of Heaven and Earth. As we celebrate Advent, we also celebrate God sending His Son to Earth as a baby for our ultimate salvation.

The Words of God are a radiant light to guide us!

Prayer: Creator God, you made the world, and it was perfect. Thank you for your Words in the Bible which also bring light to my life. Radiate your Words into my heart that I can serve and please you. Amen.



Ultimate Power Source

1st Friday in Advent

Read: Psalm 27:1-5



“The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1 (NIV)

In the ‘Mission Impossible’ movies, Tom Cruise is placed in situations where he is called upon to help solve and correct the ultimate power plays happening in the world. He is asked to accept the mission but usually those asking will take no responsibility for the consequences or fallout from any situation that he may find himself in. Of course, he always accepts the mission. I enjoy watching these action-packed movies which usually end up with Tom Cruise being the hero who has in some way saved the world.

God has placed us in a world filled with pain and sin and suffering. We are told that we have been born into sin with no hope until He sent Jesus to be the ultimate Saviour of our world. He had a plan and mission for His Son whom we prepare for during this season of Advent. In Psalm 27, we read that King David (a strong and mighty king) does not fear, not because of His great armies, but because God is there to be his strength and light in the darkest of places and situations. With God watching over and caring for him there is no need to fear or be afraid!

Like David, we can also place our faith and comfort in knowing that God is stronger than anything in this world, or any evil in the realms. God is the light shining through the darkest of times and in the darkest of places. Light is the absence of darkness – so where God is, there is only light, and darkness and evil cannot penetrate God’s light. He is the ultimate power source that does not turn off, fail or get disconnected. Tom Cruise always had issues with his missions, but with God and Jesus there to fight on our behalf we have nothing to fear or be afraid.

Live in the light of God as the ultimate power source of your life!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you have come to earth to be my Saviour. You fight all my battles and help me in all situations. Help me to remain connected to you as my ultimate power source. Amen.





God's Nourishment

1st Saturday in Advent

Read: Psalm 36:5-9

“For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.” Psalm 36:9 (NIV)

Last year when my husband and I were travelling through Salzburg, we visited an unusual summer castle. Schloß Helbrunn was built (1612-1619) by archbishop Markus Sittikus. Underground springs flowed under the castle and gardens so the archbishop, with his sense of humour, had trick water fountains installed throughout the gardens. There were fountains and spigots coming out everywhere and you would get sprayed at any time from the most unsuspecting statue. There was also a huge, automated music display of the city of Vienna (at the time) and was all run by water – even at the end when you were entranced with the movements, water came spurting out into the audience. My favourite was the outdoor dining setting where the archbishop invited all his friends to dinner, only to have water come through the seats and all around the table. The archbishop of course, stayed dry.

Not only was there the water and the fountains, but it was lit by colour and lights. I love seeing fountains and saw many throughout Europe, but so many of these were created with recirculating the water through. At Schloß Hellbrunn, the water was fed by fresh underground springs which never seemed to run out. King David described God as a fountain, not something that just recirculates but rather a fountain of never-ending new life that gives life and rejuvenation to all around. He is the source of all life and from Him life flows like a fountain nourishing all around Him.

David also tells us that being in the light of God we see only light. Light always outshines the night. When we think of God as the light – everything we see and do is illuminated by him. In God there is no darkness, and we seek this light moving forward in faith. The Advent season is a time spoken of in terms of light and dark. Jesus was the light sent by God into a dark world to bring everlasting light.

Live in the light this Advent season and drink from the abundant fountain of life.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are my fountain of life and light. Guide and bless me in all the things I do to share your love with others as you continually bless me. Amen.



Shining Brightly

2nd Sunday in Advent

Read: Psalm 89:5-18



“Blessed are those who have learned to shout praise to you. Lord, they live in the light of your kindness.” Psalm 89:15 (NIRV)

When living in Adelaide, I first got the chance of looking through a telescope that my brother Peter had brought home from the university where he was studying cosmic ray physics. One night he pointed it to the heavens, showing the moon, planets and stars shining so brightly. Since then, I have had many other opportunities to look through telescopes from Mt Stromlo Observatory in Canberra to the Reimann’s observatory in Loxton. It amazes me how these heavenly lights shine so brightly from so far away.

I was looking up the Bible verse above and found the version written from ‘The Message’ Bible... read it and be amazed at our incredible, enormous, but personal God, who loves us so we can live in His shining light.

“GOD! Let the cosmos praise your wonderful ways, the choir of holy angels sing anthems to your faithful ways! Search high and low, scan skies and land, you’ll find nothing and no one quite like GOD. The holy angels are in awe before him; he looms immense and august over everyone around him. GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, who is like you, powerful and faithful from every angle? You put the arrogant ocean in its place and calm its waves when they turn unruly. You gave that old hag Egypt the back of your hand, you brushed off your enemies with a flick of your wrist. You own the cosmos—you made everything in it, everything from atom to archangel. You positioned the North and South Poles; the mountains Tabor and Hermon sing duets to you. With your well-muscled arm and your grip of steel— nobody messes with you! The Right and Justice are the roots of your rule; Love and Truth are its fruits. Blessed are the people who know the passwords of praise, who shout on parade in the bright presence of GOD. Delighted, they dance all day long; they know who you are, what you do—they can’t keep it quiet! Your vibrant beauty has gotten inside us— you’ve been so good to us! We’re walking on air! All we are and have we owe to GOD, Holy God of Israel, our King!” ~The Message [Psalm 89:5-18]

God, you are awesome in brightness!

Prayer: I am in awe of you my amazing God! Only you have the power to create all things and through you it all shines with your love. Give me understanding to comprehend this love and share it. Amen.





A Light for Our Path

2nd Monday in Advent

Read: Psalm 119:105-112

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

I think one of the first songs I heard from Amy Grant was ‘Thy Word’ which is based on this Bible verse:

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
When I feel afraid Think I’ve lost my way
Still you’re there right beside me
And nothing will I fear As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end”

This song made a huge impact on me as it was one of the first Christian songs I had heard on the radio – not a hymn! It was written in 1984, forty years ago when Christian music consisted primarily of hymns. Amy Grant was one of the first Christian artists who gained fame and produced albums that crossed over from Christian music into mainstream pop. God’s Word touched Amy’s heart and she released this song on her sixth album when she was 23 years old.

God’s Word provides guidance and direction in life, helping us understand and navigate our journey through our lives. It provides a way so that we don’t have to stumble and not know what God’s wants from us. The Bible provides us with both law and gospel. The law shows us where we are doing wrong and going the wrong way; and the gospel directs us lovingly through God’s grace. We need both law and gospel to understand and navigate our lives. God knew that... giving us this verse in the Bible telling us that the Bible is our guide.

Being a Christian is to believe in Jesus Christ and His teaching and ministry. God has given us the New Testament which tells us of Jesus and the incredible love of a Creator God who gave His Son’s life for all of humankind. The whole of the Bible is God’s story telling of a sinful world, that has been forgiven and loved, nonetheless. God has provided a clear path of understanding to what God wants for us in His Word, the Bible. It is a light to guide and live by.

To live like a Christian is to live like Christ, who followed God’s teachings perfectly.

Prayer: Guide me Lord with your Word. Show me your path so that I can follow it. Thank you for forgiving me all the wrong ways when I turn away from you and light the path for me to follow. Amen.



Clarity of Understanding

2nd Tuesday in Advent

Read: Psalm 119:129-135



“The unfolding of your words gives light... Make your face shine upon your servant and teach me your decrees.” Psalm 119:130a, 135 (NIV)

I remember sitting in my year 11 chemistry class listening to Mr Bowden explaining about the chemical elements and their relationship to each other and how we use our knowledge of the periodic table to be able to draw the chemical equations representing the chemical reactions. I was so confused and did not understand what was being talked about at all. It sounded like another foreign language. Does this hold true to you with any of the classes you took at school? I remember going home and asking my brother James – a chemistry teacher to explain it all again. This time I understood most but needed to go back again and again to James for clarification.

The Bible is much like that, which is why we go to church and have Bible Studies to clarify what God is saying to us through His Word. During the service we hear the Pastor in the sermon explaining and giving us background as to why God is saying this, or why He is doing that. As humans we cannot expect to understand God’s ways immediately, but like in the verse above, we gain light and clarity through the unfolding of God’s Words through those who have also studied and asked the questions from others.

Bible study is so important to pursue as a Christian. It opens God’s plans and shows us His unfailing love for us through sending His Son Jesus as a human baby to live as a human with all the human experiences. God is a compassionate and loving God who created each of us in His image and ultimately wants the whole of humankind to be saved. As we come to the beginning of a new church year, and the end of a calendar year, make a resolution to attend a study with others to learn, discuss and grow in God’s Word to illuminate your understanding of the Scriptures and God’s incredible love and plan for all the world.

We can never be too busy to learn about God from His Word!

Prayer: Lord God, open your Word to me that I may understand and grow in the knowledge of your plan for my life. Help me to continue to grow and learn with others. Amen.





Night Is as Day to God

2nd Wednesday in Advent

Read: Psalm 139:7-12

“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me, even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.’” Psalm 139:11-12 (NIV)

In 1991 when I nannied in Wales, I took several trips to London when I had time off. I travelled by bus and also by the underground to where I stayed with a friend. One time I remember while on the underground train, the lights went out, the air conditioner stopped, and it became blackness. I remember being terrified as in the darkness, with no light, the mind plays tricks and makes up scary scenarios in the darkness. Around me I could also hear people crying and calling out. After a couple minutes (seemed like hours), all the power came back on, and we went on our way.

Being in the dark, out of control and cast into the unknown is terrifying. King David must have felt like this at times to write Psalm 139, which tells us that no matter where we go, no matter what we do, or how far away from God we may feel... He is always there. God is omnipresent (everywhere at one time) and omniscient (all-seeing). Even the darkness is not dark to God, but it is as light as day. God shines His light in all our dark places – we can never hide from God, which is so comforting to know He is always looking over us and hearing us in all situations.

When I was caught in the underground in London, I felt so alone, so out of control. With God, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. When events or crises occur in our lives it is wonderful to know that we are not alone, and God has promised that ‘This too will pass’. During these times it is hard to hold onto the hope of the unknown. But know when you cannot hold onto hope – Jesus is holding on to you leading and guiding you through the dark places. Place your love and trust in a God who will never leave you – you are never alone even in the darkest places.

There is no darkness with God – only the light of His presence and love!

Prayer: Guiding God, send light into my heart and life especially during the dark times. Hold onto me and never let me go. With you beside me I know that I can get through anything. Thank you. Amen.



Look to the Sunrise

2nd Thursday in Advent

Read: 2 Samuel 23:1-5



“[God] is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.” 2 Samuel 23:4 (NIV)

In January 1987, four LTC (Lutheran Teacher’s College) graduates set off from Adelaide in two cars to our postings in Queensland. In Brisbane we parted with two graduates going further north-west. Fran and myself drove up the Sunshine Coast where I dropped her in Buderim. I got up early from Buderim after staying one more night with Fran before heading towards Noosa by myself. I was going to a 1-year-old school, hopefully a place to stay and a brand-new class as a brand-new teacher. Good Shepherd Lutheran School had grown from 75 to 150 students in 1987 – what would all this newness hold for me? As I watched the sun rise heading north to Noosa, I was excited, anxious but also in awe of what God had in store for me.

I am sure we have all had this newness feeling. Starting a new job, moving to a new place, a new house, a new school, getting married – everything has a first day, a new beginning! God gives us the sunrise to remind us that He is the light of each new day and through that newness He will shine a path guiding us and leading us. I love the other analogy that the writer of 2 Samuel uses: God is *“like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.”* We not only have God’s light to guide us at the beginning of each day, but we have the assurance that He will nourish us with His blessings to keep us growing.

That first year of teaching in a new school brought with it many challenges: a broken blackboard, minimal teaching resources, a classroom made up of two office demountables put together, and the need for 6 buckets when it rained. But each morning the sun rose, and I could share God’s blessings with my children and grow them in His love. May each of your sunrises bring God’s light in love and peace. Take time to be in God’s goodness as we journey to Bethlehem.

Grow in God’s light and blessings!

Prayer: God of the sunrises and new beginnings. I thank and praise you for each new day and with it help me to see the light of your blessings. May they nourish my life and those around me. Amen.





The Peace Child

2nd Friday in Advent

Read: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)

In 1962, the Sawi people of New Guinea still lived in relative isolation. They were head-hunting cannibals. Their culture could not be more different from that of Don and Carol Richardson, and yet this missionary couple attempted to share Christ with them. In fact, two rival Sawi tribes, fascinated by the Richardsons, moved their villages right around the missionaries' jungle home. But Don became frustrated by his inability to find a point of contact. He was also discouraged by the 14 civil wars he had already counted right outside his front door now that the two tribes lived side by side. Eventually, the Richardsons decided to leave. However, the Sawi response surprised them: “If you'll stay, we promise we'll make peace in the morning.”

The next morning the Richardsons awoke to see the most amazing ritual they had ever witnessed. The two tribes were lined up outside their houses, on either side of the clearing. Finally, one man dashed into his hut, grabbed his newborn son, and began to run across the meadow towards the other tribe. His expression betrayed absolute agony. His wife ran after him, screaming and begging him to give the baby back to her. But her husband wouldn't stop. He ran over to the other tribe and presented the boy to them. “Plead the peace child for me. I give you my son, and I give you my name,” he said. Moments later, someone from that tribe performed the same agonizing sacrifice with the same intensity and passion. Richardson found out later that as long as those two children remained alive, the tribes were bound to peace.

While this amazing scene unfolded before him, Don suddenly realized that this was the analogy he needed to communicate Christ. The next time he spoke to the Sawi elders he told them of the perfect Peace Child, Jesus. There are many around us who walk in darkness without Jesus. This Christmas, share the story of the Peace Child born in a manger as the Son of God.

Baby Jesus is our child of peace to bring light to a darkened world!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to share the wonderful news of your Son's birth with those around me. Bring me out of any darkness of sin into your amazing light. Amen.



Peaceful Light

2nd Saturday in Advent

Read: Isaiah 45:5-8



“I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness...”

Isaiah 45:6b-7a (NIV)

In my younger days I loved to go camping. My friend Julie and I spent many days out in the bush, roughing it, walking through God’s amazing creation and tenting where there were no others. The Blue Mountains, the Coorong, Flinders Ranges and Halls Gap, all these places hold amazing memories. One thing I especially remember was the darkness. Once we turned off our torches and lamps for the night, there was only blackness in the tent, but to then venture out of the tent, the moon and even the stars gave comforting light. These were peaceful lights.

God created the day lights and the night lights. One set to rule the day and the other to rule the night. Thinking about God’s light – we are never without it physically, so relating that to us spiritually – we are never without the presence of God’s light shining into our lives and hearts. At Advent we start celebrating the light of the Christ-child who is coming at Christmas to bring light into the darkened souls of people. Back before Jesus came, the people did not have the Saviour, they had the hope and the promise that God was sending a Messiah, a Saviour to bring light, life and peace into an unsettled world.

We also live in an unsettled world and many walk around in the darkness without the light of Christ and His forgiveness and promise of eternal life. Our society finds other things to fill this absence of God’s light in their lives. Jesus came to bring light to everyone – no exceptions! God sent the bright light of day, the muted light of night and then total darkness of being in absence of light. As Christians we mostly walk in the bright day, but there are also times when we feel muted of light or absent of God’s presence. Jesus brings light and love to the darkened places – call on Him and live in the light of day.

Whether in the light or dark – God never leaves you!

Prayer: Shining Jesus, light my heart with your love and presence. Help me to light others’ lives by sharing with them your hope and promises. Amen.





God's Lighthouse

3rd Sunday in Advent

Read: Isaiah 60:1-3

***“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”
Isaiah 60:1 (NIV)***

For a couple years, while I was in my 20's, I took up sailing as a pastime when a friend invited me as a crew member on a 44-foot yacht. We sailed every Sunday from Outer Harbour – sometimes in races, sometimes for pleasure and other times to hone our skills for racing. One weekend we went on an overnighter to Yorke Peninsula. I remember waking one night for my turn at watch and the person at the helm asked me to take over. There was no moon and no stars because of cloud cover, and I asked about where I steer to and take my bearings? Off in the far distance was a small pinpoint of light, a lighthouse. I was told to keep the bow of the ship pointed to that light.

The purpose of a lighthouse is to be the unchanging light for ships to steer and be guided by. They are also a warning, telling of rocks and land. This lighthouse guided us safely through the night. God's glory similarly shines out bright and strong showing us the right way to go and guiding us through dangers. This glory of God is not just a physical light, but it is also the reflection of God's love, character and His truth. When we are out in life like a ship without any light to be guided by, God's lighthouse shines out bright and strong leading us and others to the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ.

We are called to 'arise and shine', to live actively in God's light to draw and share that light with others. It is an attractive light that draws people to God, just as ships are drawn to a lighthouse. In verse 3 the passage talks about nations coming to the light. God's plan is for the salvation of everyone. The glory of God shines in and through our lives. Be a beacon of God's love this Advent season and bring a friend into God's light.

Shine out brightly for others to see God's love through who you are!

Prayer: My glorious God, thank you for shining out brightly into my life and for guiding me through difficult times. Help me to also be that beacon of hope for others to see you at work through me. Amen.



Revealer of Mysteries

3rd Monday in Advent

Read: Daniel 2:19-23



“He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.” Daniel 2:22 (NIV)

If you have never read about King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, I would encourage you to read the whole of chapter 2 of Daniel. In a nutshell: King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and wanted it to be interpreted by his wise men and magicians, but rather than tell them the dream to interpret, he wanted them to tell him the dream. These wise men were meant to be in touch with the gods to be able to interpret. But they couldn’t. So, all the wise men in the kingdom were to be executed and cut in pieces – Daniel and his friends were included.

Daniel prayed to the true God of Heaven for mercy and wisdom concerning the mystery and God came through for Daniel. Daniel praised and thanked God for His wisdom and for helping him and his friends. *“He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.” (verse 22)* Daniel then went to the King and told him the dream where there was a large statue made of many metals: head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet of iron and clay. This statue is destroyed by a stone that is not made of human hands and that becomes a mountain. Daniel then tells the King the meaning. The worldly empires (the statue) will rise and fall over generations until the ultimate establishment of God’s eternal Kingdom (the stone becoming a mountain).

Only the God of Heaven has any ability to reveal mysteries. *“The king said to Daniel, ‘Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.’” (verse 47)* Throughout the Bible stories God shows His power that He is greater and stronger than anything or any other god. Only the light of goodness comes from Him. What an amazing God we have!

Trust in the God of Heaven and earth – He knows everything!

Prayer: God of wonder and light, thank you for revealing yourself to me as a God of love and light. Continue to work in and through me that others will be able to see your majesty. Amen.





Race of Life

3rd Tuesday in Advent

Read: Micah 7:7-9

***“Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.”
Micah 7:8b (NIV)***

‘The Hare boasts to the other animals about how fast he can run. He challenges them to a race and when none of them responds he taunts them that they are too scared even to try. When the Tortoise offers to race the Hare scoffs that he won’t waste his time racing the slowest creature in the world. Some of the animals laugh at this so the Hare agrees to a race. The Tortoise spends the week in training but continues to move very slowly and the other animals wonder if the race is a good idea. Nevertheless, there is a large crowd of animals gathered on the day of the race.’

‘The race starts and the Hare roars off. When he stops to look back, the Tortoise has barely crossed the starting line. The Hare taunts the Tortoise and decides to have a nap in the sun; he sleeps for so long that the Tortoise is able to overtake him. The animals cheer as the Tortoise nears the finishing tree and this wakes up the Hare. The Hare runs as fast as he can to catch up, but the Tortoise just makes it over the finish line in time. Sometimes slow and steady wins the race.’

This is one of Aesop’s fables which was believed to have been written during the 6th century BCE. The fables were written to convey moral lessons. We can also apply this to God’s teachings. The world is fast paced and brags that it can supply everything that we need for a good life: gym membership, money, big house, e-bike, Tesla, etc. God offers the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control and eternal life in Heaven with a loving Saviour. God never rests. If we fall, He will help us up; if we are in a state of darkness and despair, God will be the light to bring relief to our souls. Let God who is our light and life be the steady influence in your life.

God’s way is the only way to win in the race of life!

Prayer: Loving Lord, you are my light and life and in you I place all that I am and all that I have. May I always rely on you for everything I need for this life and beyond. Amen.



King of Day and Night

3rd Wednesday in Advent

Read: Zechariah 14:6-9



“It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime – a day known to the Lord. When evening comes, there will be light.” Zechariah 14:7 (NIV)

I have always been fascinated by the countries close to the North Pole (Arctic Circle). Finland and Greenland are countries where the amount of sunlight varies greatly depending on the time of the year. In northern Finland they experience the phenomenon of the Midnight Sun, where the sun doesn't set for months. The sun just circles around the sky all day and night. In winter, this region experiences polar nights with very little or no sunlight. For us in Australia, this is all very foreign. We have daylight saving in summer, but nothing compared to this.

What is the passage in Zechariah talking about then? Zechariah was a prophet and a priest around 520 BCE. He describes a very unique day, some even think it refers to the end times, which has both light and darkness leading to the establishment of God's Kingdom. It is a time when God's power and presence is evident, even though the natural order of things is confused. But mostly it shows that God has the sovereign power over all things, including the day and the night.

If God can rule over the day and the night and have sovereign power over all things, wouldn't it be natural for God to rule as a King over the world? But no, God chose to be a loving God ruling with grace and forgiveness. He sent His Son to earth at Christmas to bring peace to the earth. He didn't want to come with horns and fanfare, changing the orbit of the earth, or making time stand still. Rather He had the Son of God, the light of the world, the Messiah, the Saviour, come in quietness and humility to a young couple. This is the God I want in my life. A God who is an all-powerful Sovereign ruler, but chooses to rule with grace, love and peace. He brought light to the world in a little baby.

My God is King of the World but knows my name!

Prayer: Mighty God. You are ruler of the world, yet you care for me. You know my name and hear my prayers. Thank you for being a God that I can talk to and for bringing your Son to be my Saviour. Amen.





Illumination

3rd Thursday in Advent

Read: Matthew 5:14-16

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (NIV-UK)

Travelling overseas by plane requires a lot of preparation. But once on the plane we place ourselves in the hands of the pilot and stewards. They share all the details of safety before the plane takes off – seat belt, life jacket, brace position and then if all the lights go out there will be small lights that illuminate the aisle to direct us in case of an emergency. These little lights are very important for they light the way to the exits. Without them in an emergency, we would all be in the darkness and confused as to which way to go.

At Christmas the star guided the way for the shepherds and wise men to find the Christ-child in the manger. When Jesus was baptised by John, a light came down from heaven declaring that Jesus was God’s Son. When Jesus was taken into heaven at ascension, His face became as radiant as the sun. Jesus is the light that we need to see God. We understand the Bible through the coming of Jesus and His life on earth. Without Jesus’ coming as our Saviour, I am not sure that many would find the Bible hopeful and full of forgiveness and grace. We would all still be living in darkness and under the law, still waiting and hoping for God to save us and send the promised Messiah.

As Jesus’ love works in our lives we see how He lights our way, and His love illuminates our entire being. As Jesus said in Matthew 5:14a – *“You are the light of the world.”* With the love of Jesus in us we can’t help but shine out this love to all those around us. We are the ones to point others to Jesus and help them open their eyes to see God’s grace and all that makes a follower of Christ different. On a plane we have the little lights to guide us to safety, in Jesus we have the Saviour, the Light of the World to guide us to our eternal home.

Be the guiding lights to point others to Christ.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to shine my light out far and wide so that others may be drawn to the light. Thank you for coming as my Saviour to bring me peace and your love. Amen.



Shine Out Jesus' Love

3rd Friday in Advent

Read: Luke 8:16-18



“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.” Luke 8:16 (NIV-UK)

I have heard many stories of what people did during the lockdowns of COVID-19. One thing that my husband and I had always wanted to do was sort out family photos. Not just photos of our children, but photos of our ancestors. I wanted our children to know who their grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents were and where they came from. We set about sorting and then labelling and naming the pictures and finally we put them in an order on the wall in picture frames, for not just our children to see, but anyone who came to visit. We now have our own ‘Rogue’s Gallery’ of our ancestry down our passage walls.

Having the pictures in boxes did nothing to show our family history but having them in frames on the walls showed to all our pride and interest in our family. Jesus, in Luke 8:16-18, was teaching His disciples. As usual, He used parables and illustrations to help. The disciples were wandering with Jesus, hearing His teachings, listening to His knowledge and watching all He did. Jesus now wanted them not to store this knowledge in boxes under the bed or in clay jars, but to openly share what they had learned from the Son of God. In verse 17, we learn that these words of Jesus, through the disciples, will shine out brightly to the whole world. So, they are to listen carefully and learn as much as they can while Jesus is still with them to be able to share accurately to those for whom they were to minister.

In attending church, Bible studies, fellowship groups and anywhere else where God’s Word is taught and preached, we learn with ears to hear Jesus’ love for all. As disciples then we are to shine out brightly with this knowledge and share it wherever possible. We are not to hide it in boxes or under beds or on the bookshelf but display it proudly for all to see and hear what Jesus and His love means to us.

Shine your love for Jesus brightly and display it proudly.

Prayer: Jesus, through your Bible and your words I learn what it is you have in store for me. Help me to not keep this Good News to myself but to put it on a stand for all to see. Amen.





Eyes Are Lamps

3rd Saturday in Advent

Read: Luke 11:33-36

“Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light.” Luke 11:34a (NIV)

I recently went to an optometrist to have my eyes checked. I hadn't been for two years but thought that since I could still see clearly with the glasses I had, I didn't need to get new glasses. Well, I was wrong. I could still see well, but I could see better! With new glasses, I would decrease the strain my eyes and allow myself to see things more clearly. I like the analogy that Jesus gave His disciples of the eye being a lamp of the body. The clearer we see things the better the body functions with the knowledge given.

Shakespeare wrote: 'eyes are windows to the soul'. The meaning of this phrase is that a person's eyes, when observed closely, can reveal their true intentions, feelings, personality and even motivations. While I don't necessarily agree that we can understand everything through looking at the eyes, I do believe that what we see and understand and then show in our actions can show God working in our lives. When we fill our whole selves with all that is good, we act accordingly and show good to others. In the second part of the Bible verse 34b, it goes on to say: *“But when they are bad, your body is full of darkness.”* Jesus warns His disciples to make sure that they only fill their lives and eyes with good things so that all they do – actions, thoughts and words, will be completely in the light, just like when a lamp shines on them.

Our world is filled with both darkness and light. It is easy while watching the news to concentrate only on the bad that is happening. That evil is reigning and taking over, which makes us question: 'Where are you God?' Jesus asks us to fill our lives with Him and all that is good. We need to share the good happening, to share how God is working in our lives, to promote God's goodness; in this way we fill our eyes and lives with the light of God so others can see this light.

Open your eyes to the good!

Prayer: Open my eyes Lord, to the good that you are doing in the world and in my life. Help me to grow this light in my whole self to bring light to other people that they may see you. Amen.



Turn on Your Light

4th Sunday in Advent

Read: Luke 15:8-10



“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?” Luke 15:8 (NIV)

‘The Monuments Men’ is a movie based on a true story about a group of art historians, curators and architects who volunteered to join the military to locate, protect and return stolen art and cultural artifacts that had been stolen during the conflict of World War 2 in Europe. These volunteers had many challenges in working behind enemy lines, navigating war-torn Europe and then identifying the lost items to then be returned to their rightful owners. It was a gripping story and watching it one could sense the frustration in these men trying to locate the lost and stolen precious items. Until they realised that many of these priceless treasures had been stored in old mines, in the darkness. They were hidden to the world until the ‘Monument Men’ turned on the lights and searched carefully until these priceless treasures were found.

The analogy that Jesus makes with the joy that a person has when they discover something that was lost – the lost coin; really can in no way compare to the joy in heaven when one of God’s beloved children turns from the darkness into the light of Jesus. God never gives up on any of His children – He wants all to be saved and live with Him for eternity in Heaven. For this to happen, we as Jesus’ disciples need to share the light of God’s love to each of these people, that they may see the gifts of grace that God offers and leave it to the Holy Spirit to do his work.

What a terrific task we have been sent on! To go into the dark places, to search high and low for the lost to be found by Jesus and His love. Live your daily life with the Holy Spirit guiding and prompting to share when appropriate and as such be the light for others to find their way to the arms of God. God never gives up and neither should we. Invite someone to your Christmas service and begin a conversation.

Pray without ceasing and reflect God’s unconditional love.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, what joy in heaven there will be when all the lost come to you. Help me to be a light to the lost for them to find their way to you. Amen.





God's Chemical Reaction

4th Monday in Advent

Read: John 1:1-9

“The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.”

John 1:9 (NIV-UK)

A chemistry professor at a major university tells the story of a young girl who wished to make some potassium hydroxide solution. She decided to throw a large lump of potassium into a bucket of water.

The professor, glancing in her direction, saw what she was about to do and hurried towards her. “What are you doing?” he asked. She explained, and then he told her to stir the water in the bucket for five minutes before adding the potassium. “Professor,” she asked with a questioning tone, “why stir the water and why must I do it for five minutes?”

The professor replied, “It will give me time to get out of the building.”

Some people can anticipate an event without knowing what will happen, others with knowledge can know what is coming and react accordingly. The same is true with the coming of Jesus at Christmas. It had been foretold throughout the Old Testament that God would be sending a Saviour, a Messiah to bring peace and love to the world. Still when Jesus did come, many did not believe. Jesus had come at Christmas to be the Light of the World. On that night in Bethlehem, God sent His light into the world to shine into the hearts of all people.

We learn from the Bible reading that Jesus was the true light. If you put the word ‘Jesus’ wherever ‘Word’ is written in verses 1-5 of John 1... we read that Jesus had been since the very beginning with God. God had planned that Jesus come as a human to bring light and forgiveness to the lives of the human beings God had created. God knew from the beginning the ‘chemical reaction’ that would occur within the Jewish society of the time. He knew that Jesus would rock the world and cause disruption to people’s lives. Does Jesus cause disruption or peace to your life? May the Christ-child bring you peace and love this Christmas.

Allow Jesus to disrupt your life with His presence and light!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, your light comes into my life at Christmas to show me the need for a Saviour. Shine your light into all the dark places in my life and show me how I can serve you. Amen.



Living in the Light

4th Tuesday in Advent

Read: John 3:16-21



“Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.” John 3:21 (NIV-UK)

On a cold day, a hot cup of Milo warms the body and in summer on a hot day, a cold glass of milk and Milo goes down well. How many of you have eaten Milo by just taking spoonfuls out of the tin? I developed quite a taste for the dry Milo when I was a child. So, I used to sneak into the kitchen and fill a glass with the dry Milo and then go and hide under my sister's couch in her room. Looking back now, I am sure my mother knew that someone was eating the Milo, but she never commented. But one day I confessed to my mum what I had been doing. She didn't growl or scold but gave me a hug and said if I wanted some don't go and hide, just eat it at the table. I never did take any more!

Even as a small child I knew I was doing wrong and went and hid. There were other people in the Bible who also went and hid when they did wrong: Adam & Eve, Jonah and Elijah. Adam and Eve hid in the garden, Jonah got on a ship to sail away from God, and Elijah went and hid in a cave. Do we really think that our hiding is getting away from God? I know that God saw me hiding under the couch, but He convicted me to bring my wrong into the light and I was forgiven.

God doesn't want us to hide from Him, but to do everything in the light. Things that we do that are right and good in God's eyes brings glory to God. Do your work colleagues, neighbours, friends, know that you are a Christian and like to go to church? Tomorrow is Christmas Eve, be open, share the Good News of the coming Saviour of the world and invite others to join you in worship. You may be surprised at the reactions and maybe someone will want to join you.

Be open, be bold, live in God's Light!

Prayer: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to me this Christmas and helping me be a light to those around me. Let my Christian light shine out brightly that others may be attracted to it. Amen.





Light of Life

Christmas Eve

Read: John 8:12-16

“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” John 8:12 (NIV)

What an amazing promise by Jesus. Today is Christmas Eve and I am sure there is much preparation going on in your home. Some may be finishing work for a week or two to have time off over Christmas/New Year. Children would have finished school earlier, and I am sure that there is much excitement and anticipation for the Christmas dinner, the gifts, the family time. What a joy Christmas is to families whether Christian or not. However, the biggest difference is in knowing Jesus, His love, the hope of a future and the promises that come at the birth of Jesus. Christmas takes on a greater meaning and importance knowing Jesus.

Isaiah foretold the coming Christ-child who would be born 700 years later, but described Him as “...Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Through different writers in the Bible, Jesus was also called: Immanuel, Messiah, Saviour, Good Shepherd, Bread of Life and in the passage above Jesus describes Himself as, “...the Light of the World.” To unpack each of these descriptions would make this devotion pages longer, but what we do need to know is that this little baby sent by God planned this from the beginning of time for the world’s salvation. Jesus is God’s Son who was sent into the world to bring light to people’s lives in giving them the promise of an eternal future.

Tonight, as you celebrate with family, make sharing with them the promised Saviour of the world a part of your celebrations. If you cannot go to celebrate with the local congregation, have your own little service by reading the story of the birth of Jesus from a Bible, maybe a child’s Bible. Set up a nativity display and have the children make the scene as it is being read. Play a few Christmas carols and sing them as a family (perhaps some can play them on instruments). Light candles and share how God’s light has come into the world through Jesus.

With Jesus there is no darkness!

Prayer: My Saviour Jesus, the Light of the World, enter my heart this night and help me to share with family and friends the promise given with the birth of Jesus. You are my light and my life. Amen.



Jesus is the Light

Christmas Day

Read: John 9:4-5



Jesus said: “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” John 9:5 (NIV)

Once upon a time, in a land shrouded in winter’s darkness, there lived a young boy named Elias. His village was preparing for the annual Festival of Lights, a celebration of the longest night of the year, when the sun would begin its return. Elias, however, felt a deep sadness. His family had recently suffered a loss, and the festive lights seemed to mock his grief.

One evening, as the first stars began to appear, Elias wandered away from the village. He found himself at the edge of a dark forest, feeling utterly alone. Suddenly, he noticed a faint light flickering in the distance. Following the light, he discovered a small, humble cottage. An old woman with kind eyes sat beside a crackling fire, her face illuminated by the flames. “Why are you so sad, child?” she asked gently. Elias explained his sorrow. The old woman listened patiently, then smiled. “The lights of the Festival of Lights are meant to remind us that even in the darkest times, there is always a light within us, and there is always a light to guide us.” She pointed to the fire, then to the star-filled sky. “Just as those lights shine, so does the hope and love that God offers us.” She then told him the Christmas story: how the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, how she gave birth to Jesus, the Light of the World, in a stable, and how the star led the Wise Men to Bethlehem. She explained that Jesus’ birth brought hope and forgiveness, a light to guide people out of darkness and despair.

When Elias returned to the village, he saw the lights in a new way. He joined in the festivities, sharing the story of Jesus’ birth with others and encouraging them to look for the light of Jesus coming to the world. Elias now understood that Christmas wasn’t just about the lights that adorned the village, but about the light of God’s love, hope, and peace that shone within his heart.

Bring the light of Jesus to someone’s life today!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to share the story of Christmas bringing light and hope to other’s lives. Shine your light in my life that others may see you. Amen.





Children of the Light

26th December

Read: John 12:35-36

Jesus said: “Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” John 12:36a (NIV-UK)

Light. We are fascinated with it, captivated by sunlight coming through tree branches, wonder at the light of the rainbow after a storm, marvel at the flashes of lightning that light up the sky, and lie out under the stars that twinkle at night. God has given us so many natural lights to enjoy and to use to see the world around us. God has also given us the talents to make light: fire, electric lights, neon lights, fireworks, and LED lights.

What does it mean when Jesus said He wants us to “...become children of light”? Light is the absence of darkness. So, where there is light, there is no darkness. There are so many references in the Bible to light and darkness: Genesis 1:3-5; John 1:5; Ephesians 5:8 and 1 John 1:5, are a just a couple you may want to look up. The Bible uses the light and darkness as powerful metaphors to represent good and evil, truth and falsehood and when God is present and when He is absent. Jesus came into the world at Christmas bringing light to everyone. This light brought the love, grace, peace and forgiveness of a loving God. No longer would people have to wander around being concerned about their salvation. With Jesus in our lives, our hope and futures are assured.

Jesus has brought the light of God to the world – the goodness and forgiveness from all wrongdoings. He now wants us to live as “...children of light”, living in the presence of a loving God. Living in darkness is to be living in a world without the love, light and forgiveness of God. I don’t want to live like that. It is up to us to share this light with those who are in darkness, to shed hope and the gift of grace and love with those who live without hope. Be God’s children of light in a darkened world. Jesus has come into the world bringing light and love at Christmas.

Live as children of the light!

Prayer: Loving Father, you brought light into the darkened world when you sent your son Jesus at Christmas. Help me to live every day in this light and shine it into other people’s darkened lives. Amen.



The Light for Everyone

27th December

Read: Acts 13:44-49



“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’” Acts 13:47 (NIV)

I lead a KYB (Know Your Bible) group in our church. During term two we were studying about ‘Jesus of Nazareth, God and Man’. It was eye-opening to not just me but the entire group, all the prophecies that have been told about Jesus that are now fulfilled with His coming to earth as a human. One of them is the above, with Paul and Barnabas quoting Simeon, prophesising about Jesus when he was 40 days old: this child will be “...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” (Luke 2:32)

Jesus came first and foremost to the Jews, the people of Israel, to lead them to knowing their God and His Son Jesus, to bring them all salvation. But, the Jews (people of Israel) rejected Jesus, and put Him to death on the cross. They didn’t believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God who had come into the world to deliver everyone from their sins. Orthodox Jews are still waiting for their Messiah to come. When the Jews rejected Jesus, the above prophecy came true, that Jesus was coming to deliver all people (the Gentiles – non-Jews) from darkness leading them into the light of God’s forgiveness and love bringing them salvation.

God’s love and forgiveness is for everyone and God desires, “...all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4 NIV) Even when Paul and Barnabas were speaking to the Jews in Antioch, the Jews were filled with jealousy that he had so many listening to him. They were also rude and abusive. Others who were there listening (Gentiles) were glad to know that God is a God for all and they honoured the Word of God. There will always be those who reject the Word of God, but don’t let that stop you from talking to people about the light of Christ that has come into your life.

To become a Christian, one must first hear about Jesus!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are the light that has come into the world to bring all people to know your love and receive eternal life. Guide me to share your Gospel freely to others from all walks of life. Amen.





Proclaiming Light

28th December

Read: Acts 26:19-23

“But I have had God’s help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen – that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.” Acts 26:22-23 (NIV)

One evening, a man took a small candle from a box and began to climb a long, winding stairway. “Where are we going?” asked the candle. “We’re going up higher than a house to show the ships the way to the harbour.” “But no ship in the harbour could ever see my light,” the candle said. “It is so very small.” “If your light is small,” the man said, “just keep on burning brightly and leave the rest to me.” When they reached the top of the long stairs, they came to a large lamp. Then he took the little candle and lit the lamp. Soon, the large, polished mirrors behind the lamp sent beams of light out across the miles of the sea.

A blinding light brought Paul to acknowledging Jesus as God’s Son and then became one of the greatest evangelists sharing the Gospel and encouraging new churches and congregations in the faith. Paul had his share of difficulties: arrested, beaten, stoned, thrown into prison, shipwrecked, bitten by a poisonous snake and had a physical malady, his ‘thorn in the flesh’. But his faith in Jesus never wavered, even when he addressed King Agrippa in Acts 26. Paul shared the Gospel at all times and in all circumstances. Even in times of difficulty and persecution, Paul told of his Saviour Jesus, hoping to bring more to know Him.

In the above story of the candle, we also may feel that we are only just a little light in the big world, how can we make a difference. But we are God’s candle, and it is our job to keep shining. Just like Paul. The result of this shining is in God’s hands. A tiny candle or match can start a forest fire. The little flame of your good example can change people’s lives without you even knowing. Be a light to them like the beacon in the story that guided ships to safe harbour.

Shine brightly to others that they may see you and then give glory to God.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, allow my small light to shine brightly that others can see you. Encourage me to grow through learning more about you and your love so that I can share it more confidently. Amen.



Shining God's Light

29th December

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6



***“For God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”
2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV)***

“In the beginning there was nothing, God said ‘Let there be light!’

There was still nothing, but now you could see it.”

When on a Lutheran Youth Encounter Team in America, our team often had to lead ‘lock-ins’ – overnight youth sleepover in a church where they were locked in. There were games, pizza, study and discussion and a little bit of sleep! One of the favourite games for a lock-in was ‘Sardines’. One person went to hide, and everyone had to find them. When they were found, they had to hide with them, and it kept going until the last person found the whole group trying to hide in the same place all squished together. Torches were not allowed, and we had to keep very quiet. 10-15 people squished in one hiding spot were usually found – the noise was enough.

The faces of the youth shone with laughter and joy, and we had to allow time for our eyes to adjust to the light after being in darkness for so long. I enjoyed these games and the time to talk. Many times, there were some in the group who did not know who Jesus was, and spending time together grew the friendships and by the end you could see the light of the knowledge of Jesus shining in their eyes. When we know Jesus and the saving love of our Lord and Saviour our face shows the glory of God. It shines brightly.

There are many in the world living in darkness without knowing about Jesus. God said: ‘Let there be light’. We can relate this to let there be light in our lives and hearts enough that we shine out His glory. Sometimes it is much easier to hide especially in a group and not tell others about our faith. We hide in the dark with the others even though we know the truth about Jesus. Maybe it is time to find all those ‘lost’ in the dark and bring them into the light of Jesus. We won’t need a torch – our face will show enough light!

Hiding in the dark can be fun, but enjoying Jesus’ light in community is better!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, let my face show and shine out to others the knowledge and love I have in you. Help me not to hide my light in dark places, but to shine it out for all to see. Amen.





Candlelit Candelabra

30th December

Read: Ephesians 5:8-14

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...” Ephesians 5:8 (NIV)

In 1991 I spent five months nannying for two children in Monmouth, Wales. I went from teaching year five in Mt Barker to looking after a 3 ½ year old and nine-month-old. They were children needing a lot of love and attention and I had them from 7am to 7pm, six days a week. The family was very generous, and I was invited to all family occasions. It was an old house, couple hundred years old, with six bathrooms, many bedrooms and a round staircase complete with a ghost I was told. For special occasions dinner was held in a total electricity-free dining room only lit by a large suspended candlelit candelabra. It was magical with the play between the darkness and the light cast by the candles.

Before electricity, candles and oil lamps were needed to produce light in the darkness. If attention was not taken to keeping the candles lit and the oil filled, you could find yourself in darkness. Darkness is sneaky and tends to sneak up on the unsuspecting. The vigilant housekeeper in Monmouth oversaw keeping the candles lit. If the candelabra went out, candles on the table needed to be lit. Darkness is scary, and to be in the dark without a Saviour is even worse. In the Ephesians text in verse 9, we are told what the fruits are to be in our lives for living in the light: goodness, righteousness and truth.

Paul tells us in the Bible passage that we are to not live in the darkness, for many sinful things are done in the dark. Rather we are to expose the evil and repent and bring it all into the light of God’s love and forgiveness where everything is visible. God wants us to be His children who live in His light; knowing a loving, compassionate Father that we can come to at any time and be assured that we will be heard and forgiven. So, be open with your relationship with Jesus – tell Him all and don’t let the darkness sneak up.

Be enlightened and live in the Light!

Prayer: With you, my Saviour, there is no darkness, only light. Help me to be vigilant to keep my light burning and not let the darkness creep into my life. Guide me in your way! Amen.



Kingdom of Light

New Year's Eve (31st December)

Read: Colossians 1:9-14



“... giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.” Colossians 1:12 (NIV)

It is New Year's Eve. What are you doing tonight to celebrate the passing of the old year and the beginning of the new year? Last year my family walked down to the Noosa River, with hundreds of others and watched the fireworks burst over the Tewantin Marina. To get to the river we had to walk along some unlit paths through the nearby bush. It was dark! We took torches, but one of our sons said to not put them on and let your eyes adjust to the darkness. It is amazing how eyes do adjust to try to take in as much outside light as they can.

The above verse talks of the Kingdom of Light, and the opposite is mentioned in the next verse as the “...dominion of darkness”. Paul in Colossians tells the believers in Colossae that through their learning and knowledge of Jesus they are being brought from darkness into the kingdom of God's light. It is here that they will find forgiveness, love, acceptance and all the promises of salvation. In Jesus coming to earth, God sent His love through His only Son. He gave His Son to the world and allowed Jesus to live and become a human. (We celebrated His birth to a human family at Christmas). In Jesus living in the world, He became one of us, but He never let the darkness of sin be a part of His life. He was God's Son, holy and righteous.

But our sin affected Him in then choosing to die for us and our salvation that we may live in the light. Jesus took the darkness of the world (the dominion of darkness) away from us. He made us clean so that we now live only in the light of God's love. Sometimes we may feel that we can't see God, or that the darkness around us is too dark. Let your eyes adjust and pray for God's light to show the way – God's light can shine through any and all darkness.

The Kingdom of light is where I want to be.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for not allowing me to stumble in the darkness, but that you bring light and love into my heart and life. Let me shine that light out brightly so others can also find their way. Amen.





God's L.E.D. Light

New Year's Day (1st January)

Read: 2 Timothy 1:7-10

“This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” 2 Timothy 1:9b-10 (NIV)

In 1960, the first low-powered LED lights were developed. But in 1968, they were developed commercially by Howard C. Borden and Gerald P. Pigni and put into a Hewlett-Packard product. LED is an acronym for Light-Emitting Diodes. They have become more popular in use as they are more energy-efficient (often 75% less), long-lasting (can last for tens of thousands of hours) and versatile (comes in a variety of colours, shapes and sizes). Electricity passes through a small microchip which causes it to glow brightly and are cool to the touch.

I like to think that God's light is L.E.D. – **Lighting Extreme Darkness!** He is also our Light-Emitting Diode – energy-efficient (God loves us unconditionally), long-lasting (eternity), and versatile (for all people everywhere). God sent Jesus to earth, which had been planned from the beginning of the world, no one just knew when. The Old Testament foretold the coming of a Saviour, but until it happened in a blaze of light from heaven, no one believed it! Jesus came to earth in a burst of light from the angels and in all the pictures of nativity scenes we see the light from the star (which led the wisemen), shining brightly on the manger. I love the brightness that surrounded the birth of Jesus.

Jesus came to an earth filled with the darkness of sin, and hope lay in the acceptance of sacrifices. Jesus became the sacrifice for our sin and brought hope to a darkened world. His sacrifice paid the debt of our sin and unworthiness once and for all and we can now approach God directly and receive His love and forgiveness without question whether we are good enough. Today is the beginning of a New Year. Treat this year as a new beginning to work on your relationship with God – read about Him in the Bible and get to know Him better. Make some new resolutions to grow your family in a new life with Jesus! Jesus is the light of the world, and He brings transformation in people's lives.

Grow in the LED light – Jesus Lights Extreme Darkness!

Prayer: Jesus, you brought light to my life when I was brought to you in my baptism. Shine your light into my heart and help me to grow deeper in my knowledge of you. Amen.



Father of Lights

2nd January

Read: James 1:17-18



“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17 (NIV)

I remember when younger watching ‘I Dream of Jeannie’. I was captivated by this 2,000-year-old genie, Jeannie, who lived in a bottle and could grant wishes to whoever looked after the bottle. She was discovered by an astronaut, captain Tony Nelson, whom she ended up falling in love with. Overall, there were 139 episodes of this from 1965-1970 and re-runs have been played repeatedly. If you have never seen this show – it is a lot of fun!

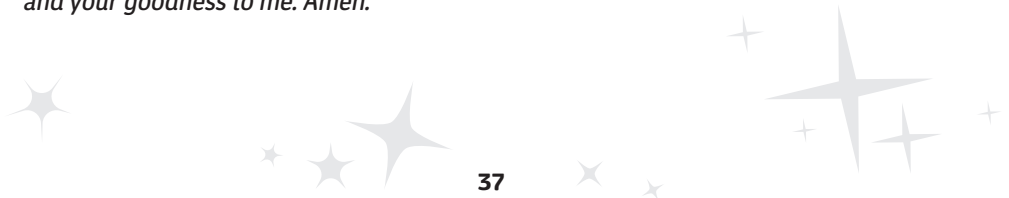
Sometimes people treat God like a genie; you pray to Him and He grants wishes. Unlike a genie, God is the Creator of the world, He is the ‘Father of Lights’ creating the sun, moon and stars, but is also the source of everything that is good, true and pure. Unlike the stars, sun and moon which shift into darkness or change, God is eternally consistent in His faithfulness and in wanting the best for all His children. So therefore, *“every good and perfect gift is from above.”* In this gift giving, was the greatest gift humanity could ever receive; the gift of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, who suffered pain and death, but whom God raised on the third day to overcome all darkness. We now live in the glorious light of the resurrection receiving eternal life with our Heavenly Father.

God is generous and good and only good things can come from God. It is our sin and our humanness that causes things to go wrong. We then rely on God’s grace to set all things right again.

“How great are God’s riches! How deep are his wisdom and knowledge! Who can explain his decisions? Who can understand his ways? As the scripture says, “Who knows the mind of the Lord? Who is able to give him advice? Who has ever given him anything, so that he had to pay it back?” For all things were created by him, and all things exist through him and for him. To God be the glory forever! Amen.” (Romans 11:33-36 GNT)

Our Lord never changes with His love for us!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you are the Lord of all creation and the ‘Father of Lights’ producing everything good and right for the world. Thank you for your gracious gifts and your goodness to me. Amen.





Transformational

3rd January

Read: 1 Peter 2:9-10

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

I recently went to a four-year-old's birthday party. There was food galore, balloons, piñata, games, lots of children and parents and of course presents. The presents varied from slime, Lego, toys and games, but the favourite of this little four-year-old was a plane that transformed into a robot. He could run around with the plane, but then he could make it come alive and walk as a robot. You may have seen these toys, they are known as 'Transformers' and are some sort of normal car, truck, plane that turns into a robot with other powers. Children seem to like the idea of something changing into something else.

I like the idea of being transformed by God. In 1 Peter, above we are given a small glimpse as to how God has transformed us. In our baptisms, God washed us clean from all our wrongdoing and even though we are human and keep doing wrong, we can keep coming back to God telling Him we have blown it again and we will be forgiven. It is sort of like being a normal type of car that we keep driving around in, but when God enters our lives through the Holy Spirit we are transformed into His "...chosen people". As it is written in 1 Peter 2:10, *“Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

Before we were baptised, we were living in the darkness of sin, but with God entering our lives, we get to be brought into His wonderful light. It's an amazing transformation that only God can perform. We get to now live in this light and love of a loving Heavenly Father. When a person is brought to know Jesus and God's love, we can picture God like a four-year-old running around rejoicing with the angels that another has been brought into His light and Kingdom. It is important to thank God and sing His praises for we now belong to God.

Knowing God is transformational!

Prayer: Almighty God, thank you for bringing me out of darkness and into your family. Help me to be open in sharing how you can transform lives through the Holy Spirit. Amen.



It's All About Light

4th January

Read: 1 John 1:5-9



“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7 (NIV)

Night and darkness can be terrifying. How many of you either had a nightlight when you were young or put one on for your children/grandchildren? There is something about not being able to see that makes our imaginations go wild. I remember as a child lying in bed paralysed by fear from a noise and picturing all sorts of monsters in my room. Disney Pixar made a movie about this, and it was released in 2001 – ‘Monsters, Inc’.

‘Monsters Incorporated is the largest scare factory in the monster world, and James P. Sullivan is one of its top scarers. Sullivan is a huge, intimidating monster with blue fur, large purple spots and horns. His scare assistant, best friend and roommate is Mike Wazowski, a green, opinionated, feisty little one-eyed monster. Visiting from the human world is Boo, a tiny girl who goes where no human has ever gone before. The city’s power supply is provided by Monsters, Inc., a utility company that employs monsters to scare children and extract energy from their screams. This is considered a dangerous task since the monsters believe children to be toxic and touching them would be fatal.’
[review by rottentomatoes.com]

At the end of the movie the monsters work out that instead of scaring kids, the monsters now make them laugh which gives off much more energy than screams, saving the city, Monstropolis. What they thought brought power (fear) is replaced by something even greater (joy). Being in the light of Jesus brings joy. In the beginning, God gave us both the light of day and the darkness of night – they both have a purpose for living. But even though darkness can be scary, there is no reason to fear it, for the Creator of the world, God, is also there. *“...even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.” (Psalm 139:12 NIV)* Walk in the light of God and live in His joy. Joy in the Lord brings power in a darkened world.

It's all about living in the light of Jesus!

Prayer: Lord God, let me live in your light-filled world surrounded by your love and grace. Take away my fear of the dark places, for you are also there with me guiding me through to your light. Amen.





Eternal Light

5th January

Read: Revelation 21:22-26

“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.” Revelation 21:23 (NIV)

Last year, my husband and I travelled around Europe for 8 weeks driving about 7,000km. We stopped a couple nights in Helsingør, Denmark. Kronborg Castle was built in Helsingør and situated on the most northeastern tip, and you can see Sweden from it. Kronborg Castle was made famous in William Shakespeare’s play Hamlet where it was referred to as Elsinore. This castle dates back to the 1420s where it was built by King Eric VII. What made this an incredible castle to walk through wasn’t the beautiful rooms and the unrestored tower that you could climb, but the incredible casemates (the tunnels and chambers in the walls/ramparts which housed prisoners and soldiers for many centuries). Down in the tunnels is a statue of Ogier the Dane who sleeps there until he is needed to protect Denmark.

We wandered through these tunnels lit only by oil lamps and arrows guided our way. The darkness was so intense at times, and you could picture prisoners and soldiers living only in the darkness. Compare this to the vision of John in Revelation 21:23. This is the New Jerusalem, which never has darkness and doesn’t need any lamps to light the way to guide through darkness because God’s glory is so bright. All the nations will be guided by this light and there is no need for castles, ramparts, casemates or places to hide or attack any enemies, for there will be no enemies. All nations will live in peace and light.

What a glorious place to be. God has prepared this place for us; a place of peace and joy where we will only experience the love of a loving God who shines His glory and presence over everything. There is no need for gates, for all have constant access, security and safety. John had this vision of heaven given by God – no darkness, no pain, no sorrow, no suffering, no war! Until we get into this eternal light and love, let us shine out our lives into a world that needs God’s light.

Heaven will be something we can never imagine – it will be incredible!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for giving John the vision of an amazing place filled only with your light that I can look forward to. You are the source of everything good. Amen.



Absence of Darkness

Epiphany (6th January)

Read: Revelation 22:1-6



***“There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.”
Revelation 22:5 (NIV)***

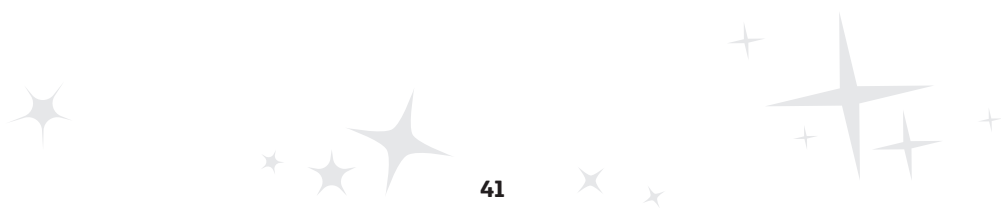
Every picture I have ever seen of angels shows them shining brightly, lighting a dark place. In the Bible God uses them as His messengers telling the news from Him to people on earth. They can't be seen by people unless God chooses to reveal them (Numbers 22:31, 2 Kings 6:17, Luke 2:13). However, there are times when angels take on a bodily form and appear to people. In the story of Jesus' birth, we have many angels appearing to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. And there are many other times throughout the Old and the New Testaments where God reveals His plan for us humans. With the angels come the radiance of God. The light of God. This light emanates from His glory.

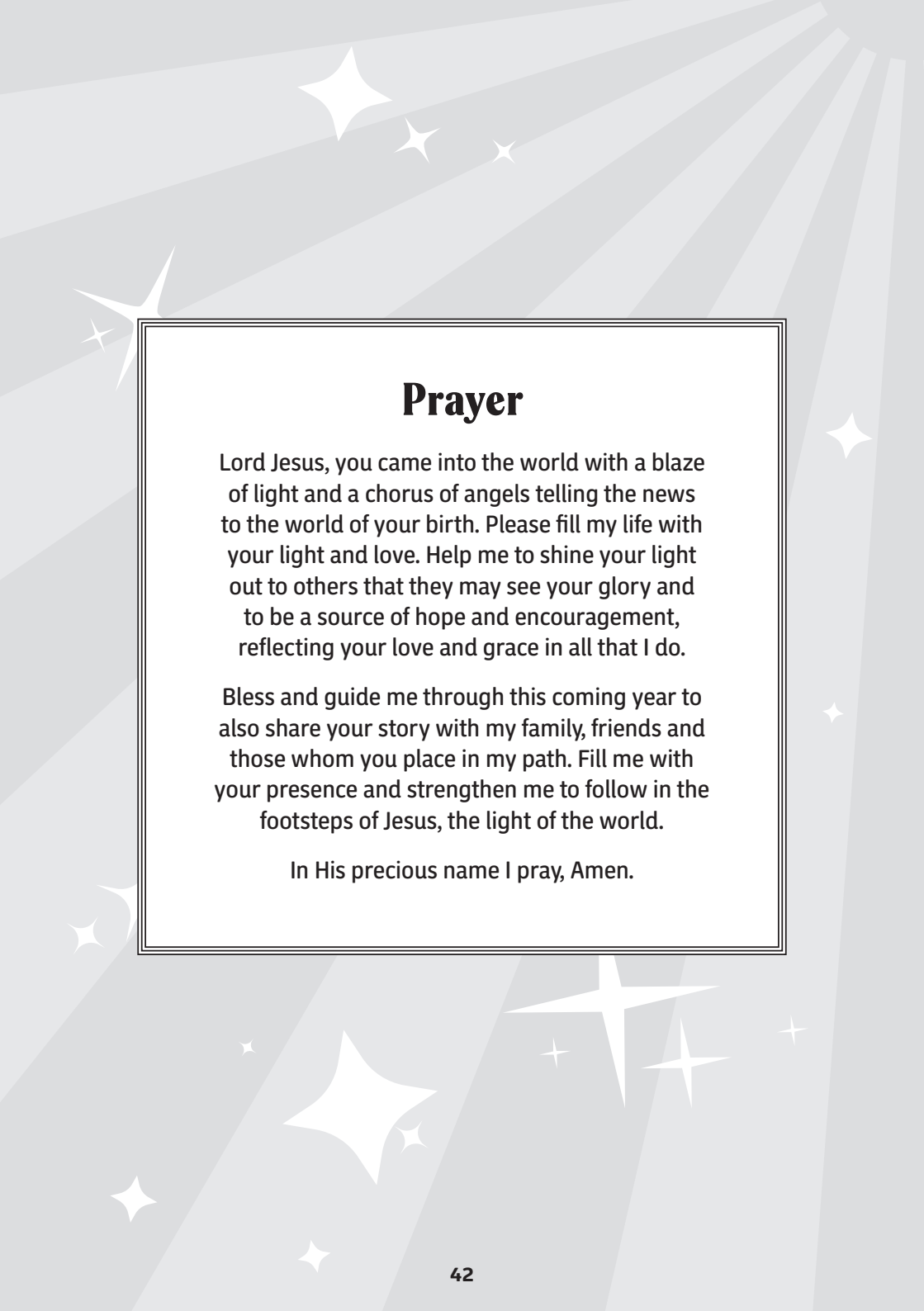
In Revelation 22, the last chapter of the Bible, we are given another perspective of heaven. There will be no night, which means no darkness. Darkness has always been associated with evil and death – when Jesus died *“...darkness covered the whole land”* (Luke 23:44) and God also says that *“He will bring to light what is hidden in the darkness and will expose the motives of the heart.”* (1 Corinthians 4:5b) A human trait is to hide things whether physically or spiritually or emotionally and keep others in the dark. When Jesus comes back there will be nothing hidden and everything will be brought into God's glorious light where all will be exposed and forgiven for those who repent.

I am not sure what a world without any darkness, physically and spiritually will be like. I doubt we will even need dark glasses to block out the brightness. We will want to be in His glory and live in His presence for eternity. As you enter this new year do not be frightened of when Jesus will return, rather be excited for all darkness to be overcome by God's glory. There are so many still living in darkness so while there is time, work for God and bring more to His marvelous light.

Shine out God's glory for all to see!

Prayer: Most Holy God, angels shine out your glory and tell of your plans. Thank you for shining your light into my heart and life. Help me to live in this glory and tell others of your love. Amen.



The background of the page features a series of light gray rays emanating from the top right corner, creating a sense of divine light. Scattered throughout the background are various white star shapes, including small four-pointed stars and larger, more complex multi-pointed stars. The entire page is framed by a double-line border.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you came into the world with a blaze of light and a chorus of angels telling the news to the world of your birth. Please fill my life with your light and love. Help me to shine your light out to others that they may see your glory and to be a source of hope and encouragement, reflecting your love and grace in all that I do.

Bless and guide me through this coming year to also share your story with my family, friends and those whom you place in my path. Fill me with your presence and strengthen me to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, the light of the world.

In His precious name I pray, Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank you heavenly Father, through your dear
Son Jesus Christ, that you have protected me
through the night from all harm and danger.

I ask you to keep me this day too, from all sin
and evil, so that in all my thoughts, words and
deeds I may please you. In your hands I place
my body and soul and all that is mine. Let your
holy angel be with me, so that the evil one may
have no power over me. Amen

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank you, heavenly Father, through your
dear Son Jesus Christ, that you have graciously
protected me today. I ask you to forgive all my
sin and the wrong which I have done, and
graciously keep me this night. In your hands
I place my body and soul and all that is mine.
Let your holy angel be with me, so that the evil
one may have no power over me. Amen.



An outreach
ministry of the LLL

Lutheran Tract Mission

175 Archer Street North Adelaide SA 5006

Phone: (08) 8360 7222

Web: www.ltm.org.au

Written: Anne Hansen

Edited: Bethany Jedlicka

Cover: Shutterstock



37238