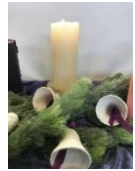




‘Worship at home’

January 4th 2026



Happy New Year!

We come to worship and are reminded of Christ’s ongoing presence and love with us as we begin this new year.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the

darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

– New Revised Standard Version

This is part of John’s prologue, the introduction to the Gospel that in some way sums up the Gospel. Jesus is God – Jesus was with God at the beginning of time – Jesus became human so we could see God’s glory and presence around us.

The writer describes the beginning in poetry and images, contemplating the presence of Christ with God from even before the beginning of everything. The writer draws on the story of Creation from Genesis, where the Spirit hovers over the waters and God moulds earth and sky and sea and all that lives through speaking out over the formless void. Into this picture, the writer places Christ, the word-made-flesh, the light who appears when God speaks, ‘let there be light!’

What do you think the gospel writer is trying to tell us by placing Jesus in a story of Creation?

What might it mean to describe Jesus as a Word? As a Light?

- adapted from L3 Liturgy Learning and (Purposeful) Life ACE 2025-2026

This week we begin the season of Epiphany, the time that starts with the story of the wise men visiting Jesus and includes the Baptism of Jesus. It is a season of seeking the light, and seeing God's presence in the people and places and events of our lives.



John himself was not the light, but his role was to testify to the true light, pointing the way to Christ, who reveals the truth and glory of God. We of ourselves are not the light, but we too may have a role in pointing the way to Christ, showing God's light to others that they may come to know the grace and truth of Christ.

**When have you shown light to another in need,
and pointed the way to grace and truth?**

John 1:10-18

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of

grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

New Revised Standard Version 2



When we offer a helping hand, phone a friend who is struggling, give to those who are hungry, share our time and resources and love with others... we may be the only flicker of light in their life that day.

The American priest and writer Richard Rohr writes *“Have you ever noticed that the expression “the light of the world” is used to describe the Christ (John 8:12), while Jesus also applies the same phrase to us? (Matthew 5:14: “You are the light of the world.”) Apparently, light is less something we see directly, and more something by which we see all other things. In other words, we have faith in Christ so we can have the faith of Christ.”*

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/that-by-which-we-see>

It could be said that the purpose of light is to see things more clearly. If this is so...

**How might you see the world,
your relationships, your faith,
if you view all things through the light of Christ?**

In the season of Epiphany, we seek to see the light of Christ in everything around us, and to see the world through this light. When we use this as our lens, we view those around us with compassion, love, and kindness, and seek justice and peace.

Prayer

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Epiphany season, that we might know your light in our lives, and shine your light to others.

Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice.

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.

Magnify your love within us.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen!



Arise, shine,
inheritors of God's light,
You came and heard,
The light of God
has come into our world.
It reached across time and space
into our hearts.

And nations will come to its
brightness.

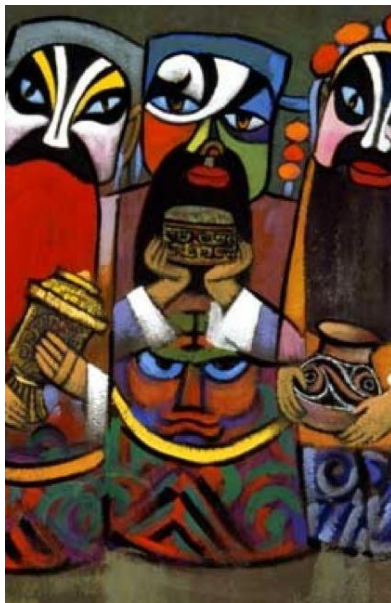
Arise, shine,
bearers of Christ's light.
You came and saw,
The light of God's son
brings salvation,
proclaims God's justice and love,
overcomes the darkness
and gives new life.

Arise, shine, privileged ones,
who live in the light of Christ,
You came and followed.

Christ redeemed our world and draws us into a loving family,
from every tribe and family and culture.

Arise, shine, sharers of God's light,
No longer be satisfied with your old life. Go and tell others,
Learn to love your neighbour as yourself, so that they too may
know Christ, and the hope his messages brings.

- Christine Sine <http://godspace-msa.com>



*Image: He, Qi. Adoration of the Magi,
from Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity
Library, Nashville, TN*

Closing

We seek to walk in the light of Christ,
to be bearers of hope, peace, joy and love
in a world longing for light.

May the light of God shine on us,
May the love of Christ shine in us,
May the life of the Spirit shine through us.
This day and evermore, Amen.

- adapted from Christine Sine <http://godspace-msa.com>