

Church Together

Jesus - The Light Of The World

9th January 2022



Welcome

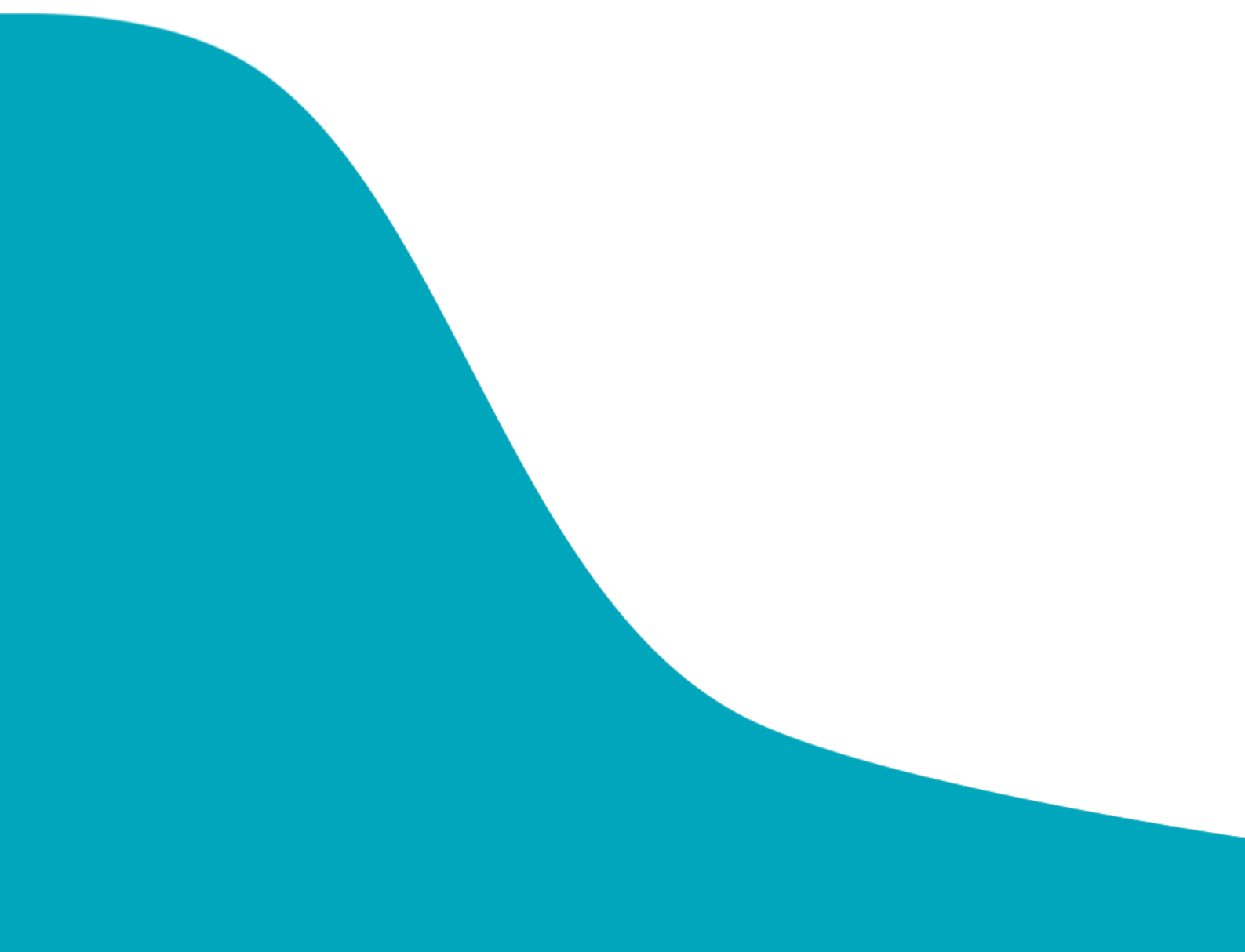
Welcome to **Church Together**.

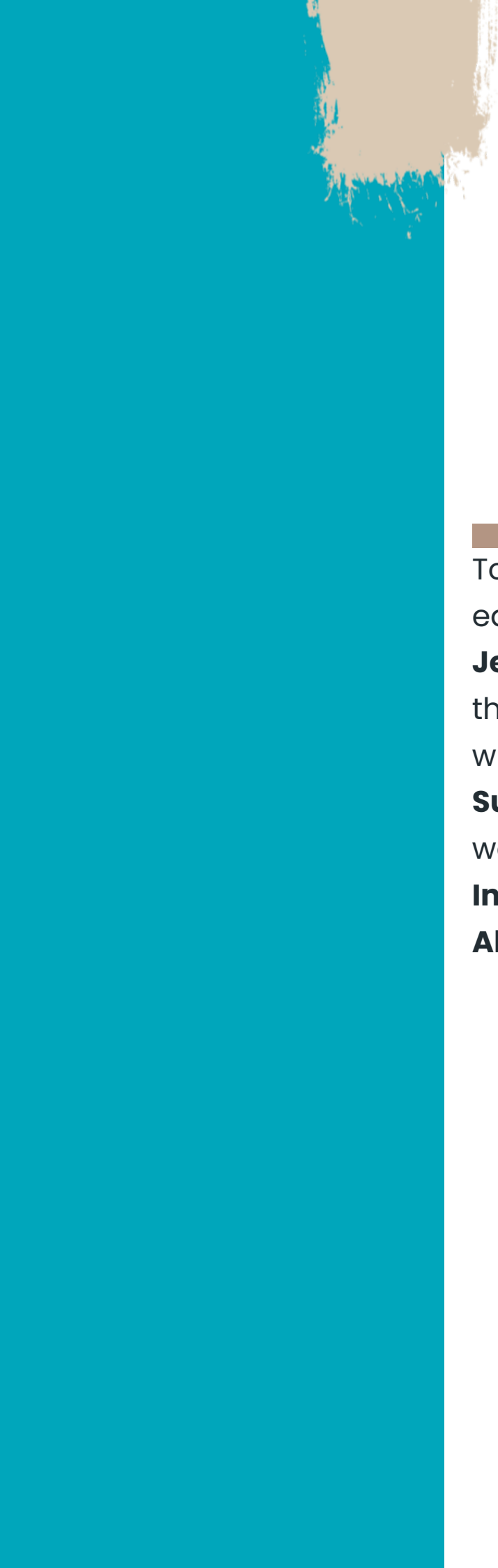
No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together.

Our flexible Sunday worship patterns blend together on - line services, home deliveries and E - mailed copies of Church Together.


Today's Service for this first Sunday in 2022 will be looking at: **John 1 v. 1 - 9 & 8 v. 12**

The theme for today's service is: **Jesus - The Light Of The World**





Today's service that is set out in this edition of **Church Together** is looking at **Jesus - The Light Of The World**. We hope that you will be able to engage with what has been produced for our **Second Sunday Service Of 2022** and that you would indeed **Know That Jesus Is Indeed The Light Of The World If You Will Allow Him**.



Jesus
THE LIGHT
of the WORLD

Call To Worship

Psalm 108 v. 1 - 5 NLT

My heart is confident in you, O God;

No wonder I can sing your praises!

Wake up, my soul!

Wake up, O harp and lyre!

I will waken the dawn with my song.

I will thank you, Lord, in front of all the
people.

I will sing your praises among the nations.

For your unfailing love is higher than the
heavens.

Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the highest
heavens.

May your glory shine over all the earth.



Song Suggestion

Guide Me, O thou Great Jehovah



Opening Prayer

Thank you for the freedom to be amongst your family here today, meeting together in the warmth of your embrace. Loving and gracious God we thank you for the past week. The conversations we have had and the tasks that we have carried out.

We thank you that we are able to come to you just as we are, weary, tired and looking for direction. Imperfect and with many faults, but even so you accept us just as we are and you love us just the same. We thank you that we are still able to come before you in the busyness of our day, to worship you, and to offer ourselves in service to you.


Thank you that in worship we can put aside for a little time, the uncertainties of this world and rest upon the certainties of your Kingdom. Help us, Lord to be still in your presence, be in our hearts and minds as we prepare to hear your word. So, as we come together at this time we do so with an open heart and an open mind. Help us to hear what you are saying to us but not just hear but to act also.

Thank you that we can bring to your feet all the hurts and fears that trouble us, and leave them there, knowing that your strength and assurance are all that we require. Help us to encourage each other Lord, and not to criticise, to build up and not to knock down, to develop and move

forward on our journey of faith together.

Thank you Lord God for the opportunity of being with you today.

Amen



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

Bible

Reading

John 1 v. 1 – 9 NIV

The Word became flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

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

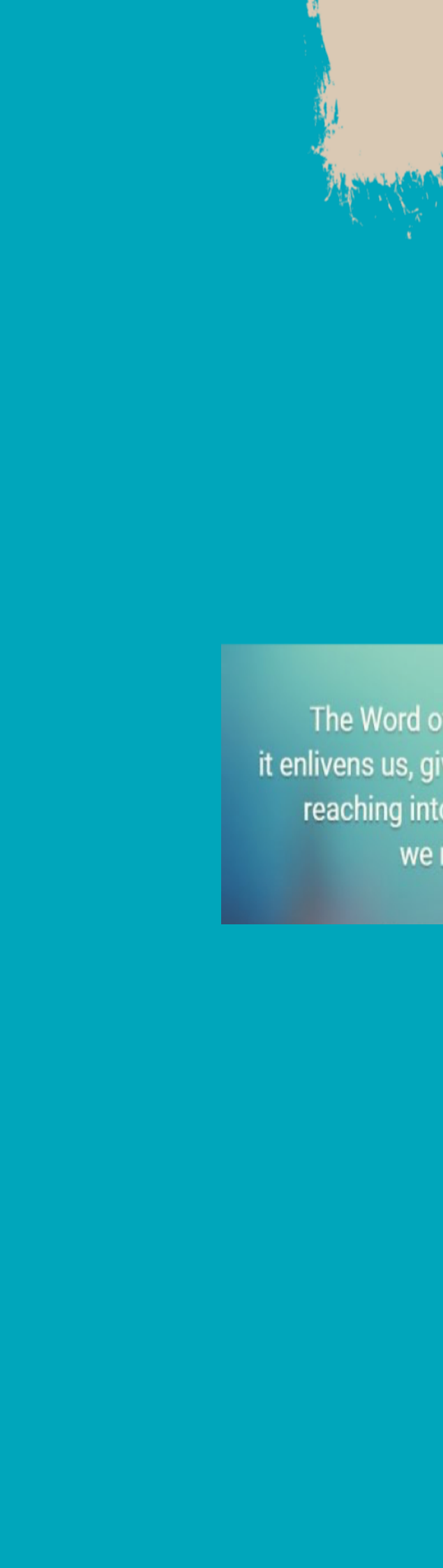
John 8 v. 12 NIV

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

Song Suggestion

Jesus, We Enthroned You





The Word of God gives us light, and then it enlivens us, giving us life. When light goes deeper, reaching into our spirit, it becomes life, and we receive the life supply.

Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

Now that we find ourselves once again holding services in Church, we are able to give of our finances to the work of the Lord when we are in church.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



Church Together Thought

Traffic lights issue instructions for the waiting motorist, a lighthouse warns of danger, a torch helps us find things in the dark. If you hold up a grubby shirt in the light you'll see just how dirty it is. When we understand something new we talk about having 'seen the light'. Light guides, produces energy and reveals. What did Jesus mean when he said he was the 'light of the world'?

Perhaps there are parallels we can draw from each of the above images. However, the pictures of Jesus in John's Gospel speak to us especially of LIFE (**John 6 v. 35; 10 v. 10; 15 v. 5**).

The light of the world promises that those who follow him, that is Jesus, will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life (**John 1 v. 4; 8 v. 12**), and in an age when we have light and warmth at the flick of a switch, it's hard to imagine just how significant the

link between light and life would have been for people years ago (*and still is for millions in the world today!*).

Consider, too, the imagery of new birth in **John 1 v. 12 - 13** (**ref: 3 v. 1 - 21**) and a baby's entry into the light from the darkness of the womb. The unborn child is familiar with the womb and lives in innocence. Yet at the same time the baby is entirely ignorant of the world around. To come into the light means leaving the 'comfort zone' and facing an unfamiliar world. Not to do so is tragic!

In our self - centred modern society it's tempting to ignore the needs of others and pursue lives of comfort. It's equally tempting for Christians to protect themselves from an unfriendly world and to cherish little havens of calm along with others who are 'in the light'. Ironically, to do so may actually mean we remain in darkness and ignorance. Christ's call to those born from above ('born again'), who live in his light, is to shine for him in the midst of everyday life (**Matthew 5 v. 14 - 16**).

Only when we obey do we really learn to depend on God and discover what it means to be fully alive in him.

An author once wrote of his experience on a

'quiet day'; he said:

'On a recent 'quiet day', I lit a candle in the room I was using and began to reflect on Jesus the light of the world, the fire of the Holy Spirit etc. A storm blew up outside the old building and the wind found numerous cracks through which to penetrate the stillness. The analogies I'd been working with now seemed inappropriate as the candle flame began to dance around wildly and threatened to go out altogether! Harried by the wind, the sensitive light appeared to be clinging on to the wick for dear life ... and suddenly I saw a different meaning. The light of my own life in Christ, vulnerable and easily swayed, depends for its existence on the source (**John 1 v. 4**). Taken away from the candle the flame would die, but holding on to the candle, indeed being a part of it, the fire could burn despite the storm that was raging outside. (**John 1 v. 9; 15 v. 5**). And I realised that in a strange way, when buffeted by the wind, the light had seemed more fully alive than it did when all was calm.'

The picture of 'Jesus being the light' reminds us of several things which we can find because of him. They are:

WE CAN FIND THE WAY BECAUSE OF HIM

How different is Christ, the light of the world, from the San Domingo lighthouse, constructed to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas! It was built on other people's suffering – 150,000 evicted from their shanty - town. The intensity of the lighthouse's 149 beams wipes out most of the city's power. The light that is Christ comes to us only through his own suffering; no one is plunged into darkness!

Just like a lighthouse exposes the hidden dangers of what is around them to those out at sea and therefore gives them a safe passage to land so it is that as the light of the world, Jesus, exposes what has been hidden and guides us through the path of life. To live in the light is to be honest and vulnerable with others and in fellowship with God (**ref: 1 John 1 v. 5 – 7**). As we express our needs and feelings, our sins and our struggles, with the people we trust, light will fall on our failures and strengths. This will give us the direction we need to make significant spiritual progress. (**ref: John 1 v. 4 – 9; 3 v. 19 – 21; 12 v. 35, 46**)

There are times when we need light to show us the way. As the Old Testament shows us, in the wilderness God provided a pillar of

smoke and fire to guide his travelling people. Christ gives light to show us the way to the Father, and the way through life (John 1 v. 9).

WE CAN FIND JOY THROUGH KNOWING HIM

A fireworks party gives light, but also joy. Jesus and his friends went to the temple to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. One night of the festival commemorated the giving of light in the wilderness. The next day Jesus made a startling claim (**John 8 v. 12**). Is he our light to the extent that our worship is equally joy - filled?

The Feast of Tabernacles was celebrated in the temple's 'court of women' like this:

Three balconies were erected from which women and children could watch. Four golden seven-branched candlesticks were set on bases [23 metres] high. They terminated in huge cups into which oil was poured. Ladders were placed on each base, and priests mounted them and poured in enough oil to last until daybreak.

The light was of such intensity that all Jerusalem was lit up. As the light flared higher, men danced, waving torches, throwing them high in the air, and catching them again.

On the fifteen steps leading to the court of laymen stood Levites with lyres, cymbals, flutes and trumpets, singing the Hallel psalms.

It was said that 'he who has not seen the rejoicing at this ceremony has never seen rejoicing in his life.'

WE CAN FIND LIFE IN HIM

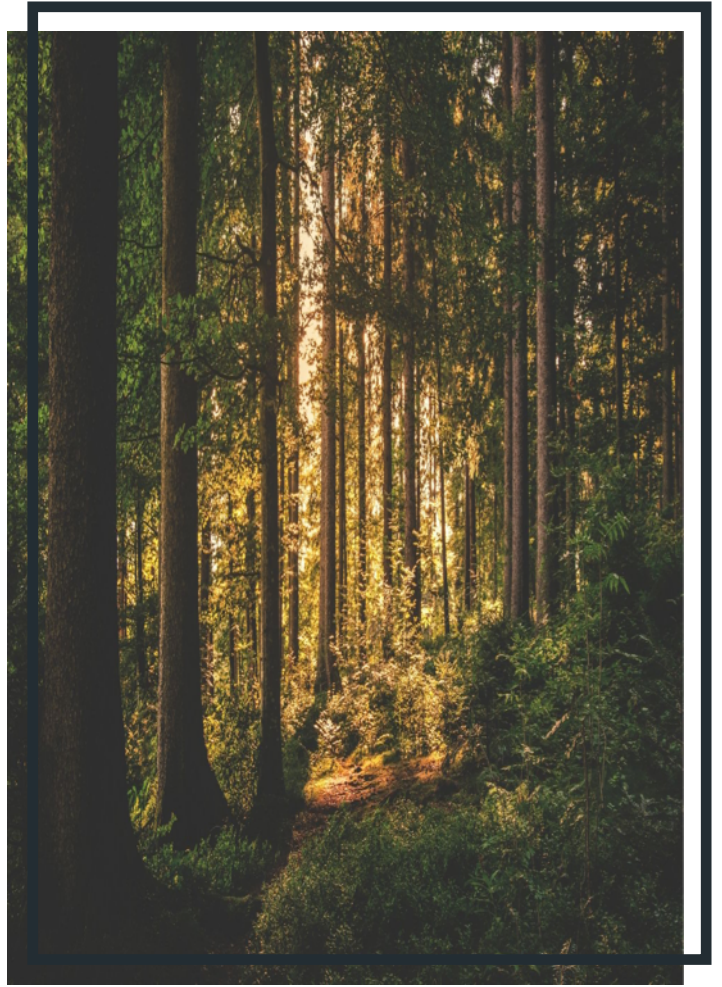
Without light, plant - life would disappear and thus all life would die out. This would be the destiny of humankind were it not for Jesus the eternal and invincible Light (**John 1 v. 4, 5**). The same God who created the universe (**John 1 v. 3**) is able to create new life in us. The light of life that exposes and drives away the darkness of the human race (**John 1 v. 4 - 5**) is the same light that brightens the dark corners of our world. This true Light of the World and source of all life is also the source of our spiritual renewal.

In conclusion, the words of **Laurence Housman**, in his writing **The Little Plays of St Francis**, maybe sums up all that we have said when he writes: 'Light looked down and beheld darkness; 'Thither will I go,' said Light. Peace looked down and beheld war; 'Thither will I go,' said Peace. Love looked down and beheld hatred; 'Thither will I go,' said Love. So came Light and shone; so came Peace and

gave rest; so came Love and brought life.
And the Word was made flesh and dwelt
among us

Song Suggestion

Great Is Thy Faithfulness





**JESUS
IS THE
LIGHT**

Prayers of Intercession

Loving Heavenly Father, it gives us joy and delight to be in your presence this day. To know that you are indeed our Lord and Saviour. To you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts today we pray, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and therefore worthily magnify your holy name this day.

Loving God, we lift up in prayer today, the community in which we worship, and those whose lives interweave ours. We pray for the many churches in Huddersfield; may their lives of worship and service be used by you, may they be guided by your Spirit, and may they be filled with the joy of the risen Lord Jesus; and may they, along with us here today, be brought into a deeper partnership and relationship as we celebrate and serve you where we find ourselves.

We pray for the many local schools in this area as they have started back for the Spring term in the last couple of days. May they be places where children, young people and staff are prized for who they are; where good education is passed on to the upcoming generations for the good of their lives and the communities that they are part of.

We pray for those whose occupation is to serve this

community. We pray for health workers, police, emergency services and all those who contribute to the lives of this community. May they, together with all who live here, help this to be a better community where need is met and hope is given.

For a moment in the quietness of this day, we pray, Lord Jesus, for those who have served in this our church. We thank you, loving Lord, for all those who have heard the call of Jesus, and have responded with their lives. We thank you for those who have shared their faith with us. In silence now we name before you those who have served us in special ways, influenced our lives and lead us nearer to you. As we learn from both their successes and failures, so may we offer ourselves as servants of your kingdom today we pray.

We ask all of these prayers in the powerful and wonderful name of Jesus.

Amen

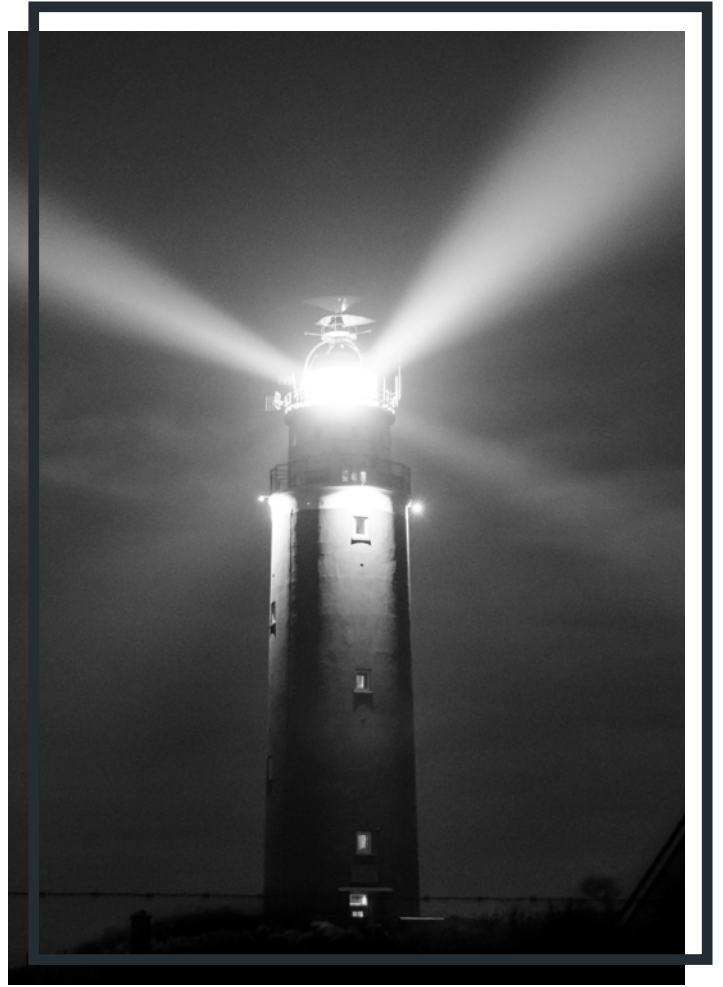
The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

Song Suggestion

Lord, The Light Of Your Love Is
Shining



Blessing

We have gathered here today,
Lord God as your people to offer you
our sacrifice of prayer and worship.

May the love of Jesus Christ
bring us wholeness,
the grace of God the Father
grant us peace,
the breath of Holy Spirit
instil within us passion
and the unity between them
give us strength
for this and every day.

Amen