

The Light has come

Christmas Eve 2021
9 Lessons & Carols

We human beings are something else.

We are amazing!

We have the ability to shine and glow in what we do and how we are.

We can even be beautiful!

Yet, we can get it so wrong and be the most miserable of creatures.

We can bond and love to create life and bless the future.

And we can so mess up our relationships so that all we leave is poison for generations.

We can live in friendship with our life-giving creator in the mystery of the universe,

Or we can despise our creator and set out to shape life in our own imagination.

The difference between all those possibilities is light.

We humans need light to live by.

As we each grow up we consciously or unconsciously have to learn what it is to be human and how to do that. From very early we are learning but left to ourselves it's too much and we all get something but miss other things with confusion as the result.

Q: Is there someone here who has worked out completely how to be fully human and is living that?

A: I thought so, I am still learning too.

Christians are people who recognise and receive Jesus Christ as God's gift of the light we need to be truly human, to live as we were designed to be in the image of God.

Then many other sources of light are on offer from religions of all sorts including religions that say they are not religions! You may have heard about the so called 'Enlightenment'.

At the same time not everyone is open to this light from God offered in Jesus Christ and many prefer the darkness so try to extinguish it.

Illustration:

When I was a boy I played indoor basketball. We played at night in a sportshall with no windows. One night during practice there was powercut. This left about 20 boys alone in a totally dark gymnasium. We really could not see a thing so I sat on the floor. Then the noises and screams started which told me all was not well. After a while I felt someone come by and was kicked and punched in the dark. I had no idea of what was happening and it was frightening.

After a while the lights came on and we could see the situation but did not know who had done the kicking and punching. Without any at all light that is what life would be like.

Jesus came as God in human form to bring God's light in ways all in the world could receive and live it. That light needs to be received from God in Jesus in our hearts, in our mind and in our soul. We need light in every aspect of who and what we are.

It comes to us with love from the words and stories of Jesus found in the Bible.
It comes to us as God whispers in our heart's ear.
It comes as love from others kindling love's fire within us.
It comes when our hearts are strangely warmed by God's presence

The light of God in Jesus brings us to see the truth and empowers us to live in it.

That is what makes Jesus so special.
That is what we celebrate at Christmas, God's light coming into our history to lead us in the fullness of life he has for us.

If you want to see this light and feel its blessing,

Look at Jesus.
When we look at him everything else comes out of the shadows for us to recognise
When we look at him we see God.

So may I encourage you whoever you are;
Look at Jesus and never stop, walk in in his light and you will shine in a dark world.