



Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

Over the past several weeks we have been looking at the “I Am” statements of Jesus. Metaphors that describe the saving power of our Lord. We have lifted up Jesus’ words as “I am the resurrection and the life. I am the door. I am the good shepherd. I am the vine. I am the bread.”

Today is our last Sunday in this sermon series. Our “I Am” statement this morning is “I am the light of the world”. The light that takes away the darkness and enables us to see the grace and love of God.

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for worship, I encourage you to do so this Sunday. The following phone numbers are the ones to dial between 10:15am and 10:30am:

1-312-626-6799 or
1-346-248-7799

And when prompted for a Meeting ID enter:
867 5713 3623 #

I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday as we celebrate Jesus as “the light of the world”. Follow Him and let your light shine.

You are special to me.

God Bless You, Edd

Valley Christian Church

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

PRELUDE

"This Little Light of Mine"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world"..
People: We are gathered together in our homes by telephone, O God, to celebrate the light.
Leader: Jesus said, "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life".
People: We praise you, Lord Jesus, for illuminating our path and helping us master our fear of the dark, even the dark valley of death.
Leader: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven".
People: Spirit of God, increase our desire to follow the light. To always affirm that the Lord Jesus is the light of the world.

HYMN

"Morning Has Broken"

*Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word
Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dew fall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass
Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the One Light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day*

INVOCATION

Holy God, as the light of the sun is transformed by plants into energy, so may we transform the light of Jesus into our lives. Fill us with his light and turn our

acts of kindness, words of blessing, and gifts of service into light for others. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-7, 8:12

MEDITATION

"I am the Light of the World"
See Insert for Meditation

HYMN

"Pass It On"

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.
That's how it is with God's Love,
Once you've experienced it,
Your spread the love to everyone
You want to pass it on.
I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I've found;
Oh God you can depend
It matters not where you're bound,
I'll shout it from the mountain top
I want the world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on.*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

O Lord we celebrate you as the light of the world.
By your light O Lord coming into our world, expose to us the dark sides of our souls that need to be confessed and cleansed.

By your light O Lord coming into our world, illuminate the possibilities inside of us that can be used to serve others.

By your Light O Lord coming into our world, guide us in directions that are meaningful and eternal in destination.

By your light O Lord coming into our world, reflect from our lives God's goodness that helps others, and God's glory that inspires people to worship. Eternal light, our Lord, coming always into our world, shine through us the colors of your goodness. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

**CALL TO
COMMUNION**

Giver of new life, you spread your love in the bread and the cup on our tables today. Please cleanse and feed us with these two elements. Grant that we find joy in our hearts as we approach our holy tables. Call us home today, O Lord.

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

“Jesus is Tenderly Calling Thee Home”

Jesus is tenderly calling thee home,

Calling today, calling today;

Why from the sunshine of love wilt thou roam

Farther and farther away?

Calling today, Calling today; Jesus is calling,

Is tenderly calling today.

Jesus is calling the weary to rest,

Calling today, calling today;

Bring Him thy burden and thou shalt be blest;

He will not turn thee away.

Calling today, Calling today; Jesus is calling,

Is tenderly calling today.

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord’s Prayer

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when he said, “Take eat and take drink.”

**SHARING OUR
OFFERING
WITH GOD**

Share your church offering with the church by mail.
Thank you for your love gifts.

**OFFERTORY
PRAYER**

Light of the world, we give you thanks for the church, for its people and its mission to be a beacon in the world of hurt and sorrow. May these gifts be transformed into what people need most – your love and care. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May all your journeys be led by the light of Jesus for He is the Light of the World. Amen.

Turn unto the

Lord your God:

for he is gracious

and merciful,

slow to anger,

and of great kindness.

Joel 2:13

MEDITATION

Sunday, May 24, 2020

“Jesus Is the Light of the World”

In the morning scripture of John the disciples were standing outside the Temple, while Jesus and the Jewish leaders were inside engaged in a theological discussion. When Jesus came out of the Temple, the disciples asked Jesus, “Who sinned, this man or his parents that caused him to be born blind?”

Now this question may seem strange to us today. But their belief was that all sin and suffering was the result of sin committed by someone.

Our Lord’s reply was neither the blind man nor his parents had sinned. Christ was rejecting the view that all suffering was the result of sin. He went on to make the point that suffering provided an opportunity to show the love and mercy of God.

Jesus made a paste of saliva and clay and put it on the eyes of the blind man. He said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”. The man went and washed his eyes and received his sight.

As Jesus performed this miracle, He said, “I am the light of the world”. In this miracle and metaphor Jesus was saying two things. First, Jesus was saying that light gives sight. Without light it is impossible to see. Christ gave sight to the blind man.

For the blind man light made the darkness disappear. Light and darkness cannot exist in the same space, because anytime light shows up, it pushes the darkness away.

As Christians, we believe Jesus is the light of the world. When He shows up He pushes the darkness away.

What is it about light that makes it better than darkness? The obvious answer is that you can see light, not only can you see light, but light also makes all things in its path visible so that you don’t
(over)

stumble into things. Therefore, Jesus is the light of the world. He gives us insight. He helps us see spiritual things. When we see Jesus, we know what God is like. When we see Jesus, we know what we ought to become.

Christ is the light of God in our world. He puts the clay upon our spiritual eyes and tells us to wash in faith – and then we can see.

Second, light not only gives sight but it also produces more light. We say that by day the earth is lighted by the sun, and night the earth is lighted by the moon. But the fact is that the earth is lighted both night and day by the sun. The light that shines from the sun is reflected by the moon to the earth.

Whenever light shines upon an object, that object reflects the light. And so the object itself becomes a light. When Jesus the light of the world shines upon us, we also become lights. Our reflection of His light means there is more light in the world.

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid, nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand and it gives light to all in the house. Let you light shine before people, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven”. (Matthew 5:14-16)

Our Lord was saying that we reflect His light to the world by what we do. Through His light we make more light. He is the sun and we are the moons. His light is reflected in us. We become lights in the world.

When I was a child my parents took me to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. The guide turned off the lights in the cave to show us how dark it is below the surface of the earth.

I became frightened in the darkness. My Father held me and said “Don’t be scared. Somebody here knows how to turn on the lights”. The message today is that Jesus knows how to turn on the lights! He is the Light of the World.