

And in the day of trouble,
I'm safe within his dwelling,
He will hide me, he will hide me.
My head will be exalted
So far above my enemies,
I will sing to the Lord, sing to the Lord.

There is one thing that I ask of the
Lord
For the days of my life;
That I may dwell in the house of the
Lord
All the days of my life.
To gaze on his beauty,
Seek him in his temple.

*By Frances Allitsen and Linda Mc Kechnie
Performed by Eden's Bridge
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Please feel free to leave when you feel
ready – or stay to the end.

Please take this sheet home with you.

*If you would like to be part of the
Reflections team – please let one of us
know.*

The next Reflections will be on Sunday
5 January 2025 (Advent and Christmas
carol services take place on Sunday
evenings in December)

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*Cover image: The Light of the World,
by William Holman Hunt
(original displayed in St Paul's Cathedral)*

Reflections

**A quiet contemplative service
lasting about 40 minutes**



The Light of the Lord

**10 November 2024
6pm**

**The Parish
Church of
St Andrew
and St Cuthman,
Steyping**

Reflections

Sunday 10 November

THE LIGHT OF THE LORD

MUSIC ON ENTRANCE

Natural Light (5:35)

Ludovico Einaudi -

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION

POEM

I am the Light of the World

I see your world in light that shines
behind me,
Lit by a sun whose rays I cannot see,
The smallest gleam of light still seems
to find me
Or find the child who's hiding deep
inside me.
I see your light reflected in the water,
Or kindled suddenly in someone's eyes,
It shimmers through the living leaves of
summer,
Or spills from silver veins in leaden
skies,
It gathers in the candles at our vespers
It concentrates in tiny drops of dew
At times it sings for joy, at times it
whispers,
But all the time it calls me back to you.
I follow you upstream through this
dark night
My saviour, source, and spring, my life
and light.

Malcolm Guite

For before his death
He had infected others
With his light.

He is the light
That brought light
To this dark world.
The light in darkness.

(author unknown)

PRAYER

Father in heaven, you made me your
child and called me to walk in the
light of Christ. Free me from
darkness and keep me in the light of
your truth. The light of Jesus has
scattered the darkness of hatred and
sin. Called to that light, I ask for your
guidance. Form my life in your truth,
my heart in your love. Give me the
power of your grace that i may walk
in the light of Jesus and serve him
faithfully.

Amen

(St Columban Mission)

BLESSING

CONCLUDING MUSIC

The Lord is my light (5:26)

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.
The Lord is the stronghold of my life.
Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?*

When men advance against me
And all my foes surround me,
They will stumble and fall, stumble and
fall.

Though all the world besiege me,
And war break out against me,
I am sure in the Lord, sure in the Lord.

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

POEM

The Light in Darkness

Almost half a millennial,
But yet no light
in sight;

Men searching and longing,
Art thou him spoken of
By the men of old?

They questioned
Whoever they reckoned
As the light bearer.

Finally, one day,
He came forth,
But they believed him not.

What they had long searched for
Stood before them,
But he seemed less than their
perception could accept;

Can the son of a carpenter
Be him we are looking for?
By this simplicity were they blinded.

No prophet arises from Galilee;
Concluded they
In their hearts

He can't possibly be the light;
They agreed
Without any thoughts of their initial
reference.

Crucify him! They cried;
For claiming to be what he truly is
Afraid he might unveil their dark ways.

Though they killed him;
They lost
The war,

MUSIC

Taizé chant – O Lord the Light (*C'est toi la lumière*) (3:11)

O Lord the light of my life
My God shine out within my darkness
My God, my God, shine out within my
darkness
My God, my God, shine out within my
darkness.

By Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

BIBLE READING

O Lord, you have searched me and
known me.
You know when I sit down and when I
rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying
down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for
me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your
presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are
there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the
sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover
me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Psalm 139:1-12

MUSIC INTO SILENCE

Father of Light (4:54)

You will not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
His faithfulness will be your shield
And in his dwelling, you'll stay

*He will cover you with his feathers
In his shelter, you will find rest
For the darkness will turn to dawning
And the dawning to noonday bright
I'll praise the one who is holding me
fast
Father of Light*

When anxious thoughts fill an endless
night
And fear paralyses me
I'll shout your name, knowing you will
hear
And be sure to rescue me

I'll cling onto you and wait for the
morning
Deliver me, my God, in whom I trust
I'll cling onto you and wait for the
morning
I'll wait, I'll wait deliver me, my God, in
whom I trust

*For the darkness will turn to dawning
And the dawning to noonday bright
I'll praise the one who is holding me fast
Father of light*

*By Naomi Stirrat and Gus Stirrat,
Performed by Celtic Worship
© Integrity Music*

PERIOD OF SILENT REFLECTION

(12-15 minutes)

*Please feel free to move around the
church, if you wish, to reflect and pray.*

MUSIC OUT OF SILENCE

Christ be our light (2:25)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people.
Light for the world to see

*Christ, be our light. Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light.
Shine in your church, gathered today*

Longing for peace, our world is
troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed

*By Bernadette Farrell (b 1957)
Performed by Chris Brunelle
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MEDITATION ON BIBLE VERSES

Isaiah 60:1 - Arise, shine; for your
light has come, and the glory of the
Lord has risen upon you.

Micah 7:8 - Do not rejoice over me,
O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise;
when I sit in darkness, the Lord will
be a light to me.

1 John 1:5 - This is the message we
have heard from him and proclaim to
you, that God is light and in him
there is no darkness at all.

Psalms 118:28 - It is you who light my
lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my
darkness.