

LiFT Online No 9 – November 2020

Light

Welcome to this evening's LiFT Online. As you will see from the title and with the approaching season of Advent and Christmas, we will be thinking a little about Light and how essential it is, not only to guide and direct us, but also for growth and wellbeing, and, where and how Jesus, as the Light of the World, fits in. As the Holy Spirit guides us through words, music and pictures, please allow Him time and imagination to reveal something afresh, for the coming days and weeks ahead.

Lord Jesus, we come before You now. We offer You this time, our thoughts, our minds, our emotions. Take them as our gift to You. Speak to our hearts, open our eyes and ears to see and hear You. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

We will begin with a time to worship, with a tradition hymn associated with Advent.

Come, O Come Emmanuel

https://youtu.be/7xtpJ4Q_Q-4

As the last chords fade away, take time to both thank God for all that He has done for You and praise Him for who He is.



Since I bought a twig tree with especially bright lighting, I have been fascinated by the way that the light falls on clear baubles. Above are two photographs taken of two baubles in daylight. If you look more closely on the one on the left, it is just about possible to make out a distorted layout of our hallway! The one on the right, a mish mash of colour.

The two pictures below are of the same baubles but taken in the darkness with just the light shining directly onto them. There seems to be more clarity in the detail.



Maybe you might like to make similar comparisons by lighting a candle in daylight and observing the flicker of the flame, the way it reacts to the daylight surrounding it and then relighting it at a later time when the lights can be extinguished and it becomes the lone light in the darkness. What are the patterns made by the light and how far does light spread? How much of the surroundings become illuminated?

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." John 8:12

⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." John 11:9-10

*I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the **darkness** into **light** before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.*

Isaiah 42:16

Take some time to read through these verses making a "note to self" if any word or phrase seems to be highlighted in your mind. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through them.?

Intercessory Prayer

As we turn to prayer, perhaps we could pray for our world, our nation, our community, family and friends over the coming days, based on the following phrases, and, bearing the light of Jesus in mind:

Blindness – spiritual

Physical

Growth

Mental Health

Guidance

Distortion

Perception

Illness and suffering

As we bring this time together to a close with "Light of the World" by Chris Tomlin, ***Father, I pray that You would bless each one of us, our families and friends, the world in which we live with a sure knowledge that You are the Light of the World, our Peace that goes beyond our understanding and a sure hope for the future. Amen***

<https://youtu.be/dXZ1C79uJX0>

Keep safe, God bless