

**1. [1] Welcome – Merry Christmas Eve**

- I. Encourage you to fill out a Connect Card if you're new, we'd love to get to know you and help you get more connected to God and others in our church. (online too)

**2. Opening Story:**

- I. Stubbing my toe in the darkness (lego). Garage? Walking into spider web.
  - i. None of this happens when the light is on
  - ii. When I bring a flashlight.
  - iii. Once I got lost deep in a cave with a bunch of teenagers
    1. And as our flashlights were running out, we began to see light up ahead
    2. Faint at first, but increasing as we got nearer.
    3. That light filled us with HOPE, and guided us to salvation
- II. Light has long been a symbol of hope and guidance.
- III. And it's from that angle that we engage with the Christmas story today

**3. [3] The Other Christmas Account: The Light of the World**

- I. **Scripture Reading:** John 1:1-14

[3] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

[4] <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**4. Prophecy Fulfilled: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (Written 700 yrs before Jesus' birth)**

- I. [5] <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.  
... <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- II. Jesus' birth fulfills these and many other prophecies!
  - i. The child who is born, who is also Mighty God, Everlasting Father.
  - ii. Bringing hope to a world in darkness.
    - 1. Wonderful Counsel and guidance to a life infused with
    - 2. PEACE

## 5. [6] Jesus: The True Light of the World

- I. Jesus is the true light that dispels darkness and brings life.
  - 1. Not just the darkness of space or a cave or a closed room.
  - 2. But the spiritual darkness that has covered us all ever since the fall, when everything went sideways in the Rebellion in the Garden
- ii. Jesus IS THE LIGHT, and he came to bring us LIGHT to give us hope and guide us back home to him.
- II. The Spiritual NORTH STAR for our lost and wandering hearts.
  - 1. Revelation 22: Jesus says he's the BRIGHT morning star
- ii. Not only did Jesus himself invent the stars, and ignited them with his power
  - 1. But he is the light of LIFE – that light has shone down into the dust of the earth, and filled our bodies with LIFE from him
    - a. Carl Sagan famously said "The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff."
    - b. The elements of our bodies were originally forged in the hearts of the first generation of stars, and when they exploded, they flung the carbon and oxygen and all the rest out into the universe. God literally made our bodies out of the hearts of stars.
  - 2. But even more, we're SON stuff
    - a. Made with the spark of life from the Son of God himself
    - b. That light in which we live and move and have our being.
- III. Without that light, we die.
  - i. We go blind spiritually
    - 1. Jesus' light illuminates our path, guides us, and offers us hope.
    - 2. Hope that we're not left alone in our suffering and darkness and death
    - 3. Not left alone in our sin and shame
    - 4. But our God has come for us.
    - 5. Moved heaven and earth to come near, to live a perfect life
    - 6. To die a death on a cross to save us
    - 7. And to rise from the grave to offer us the hope of eternal life with him that starts now.
- IV. Christmas is all about the LIGHT of the Universe, coming here. The Son Himself. Wrapped in humanity. So that he could come close without burning us up.
  - i. And so that he could lead us out of darkness, into his marvelous light.
  - ii. The way of hope, forgiveness, peace, and resurrection

## 6. [7] We are The Light of the World

- I. **Scripture Reading:** Matthew 5:14-16
  - i. "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden..."

- II. Through his indwelling Holy Spirit, the Great Light now lives in us!
  - i. And sends us out, as luminaries into a dark world.
  - ii. We are the light of the World, he shines through us.
  - iii. Christmas is for everyone!
  - iv. For indeed He's coming back again.
  - v. We await Christmas 2 – The Return of the King, and the putting of all wrongs right.
    - 1. The resurrection of all us who believe into new physical bodies that will never die
    - 2. And the resurrection of our earth into Edenic glory.
  - vi. AND He'll move back into the neighborhood. Forever.
    - 1. Heaven and earth merged. Here.
    - 2. We're looking forward to THAT day.

## **7. Living in the Light: Our Response**

### **I. [8] GRATITUDE for the Light**

- i. remember and celebrate. Give thanks.

### **II. BE the Light**

- i. Encourage you to reflect on Jesus' light in your own lives.
- ii. And reflect Jesus' light to others.

### **III. [9] Reflection Questions**

- i. **How is Jesus functioning as the Light of my world? Where do I stumble and fall without his light, life, guidance, presence?**
- ii. **How can I reflect Jesus' light to others this week?**
  - 1. Keep Christ in Christmas as you celebrate with your family today and tomorrow
  - 2. Talk with your family and kids about why we celebrate
  - 3. Why we give gifts.
  - 4. Why Christmas means everything to us.
  - 5. Take time to pause and read Luke 2 together before opening presents.
  - 6. Take time to pray gratitude to Jesus.

## **8. [10] Conclusion: The Light of the World**

- I. All the Xmas lights are good! They remind us that Jesus, the Light of the World, has come in a Manger 2000 yrs ago.
  - i. And that he's coming again.
- II. Don't let all the lights blind you to the true meaning and joy of Christmas.
  - i. Don't let the presents and the bustle and the stress and the travel blind you to the Light that shines in the darkness, the light that now lives in our very spirits.
- III. Instead, embrace Jesus as the light of the World, and share it with others.

## **9. Closing Prayer:**

- I. A prayer asking for God's light to shine in our lives and guide us through any darkness.



**MERRY**  
Christmas Eve



# THE LIGHT of the World

# John 1:1-14

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# John 1:1-14

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# Isaiah 9:2,6-7

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Jesus is  
**THE LIGHT**  
of the World



We are  
**THE LIGHT**  
of the World

# Living in the Light

## Gratitude for the Light

## Be the Light



# Living in the Light

- How is Jesus functioning as the Light of my world? Where do I stumble and fall without his light, life, guidance, presence?
- How can I reflect Jesus' light to others this week?





**THE LIGHT**  
of the World