

Collect

Almighty God,
through the waters of baptism
your Son has made us children of light.
May we ever walk in his light
and show forth your glory in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Let us Pray:

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,
my strength and my redeemer.

Tonight, I want to focus on the collect of the day. It is about God who is the light. It is about us,
the children of God who reflect the light.

I drive a lot in my ministry. Much of it is at night, especially in the wintertime. Darkness on the
prairies is an eerie, awesome and a little frightening sight. It seems to go on forever. As I drive
in this darkness when there is a turn in the road I often see reflectors that show me the road so
that I can navigate the turn safely. The odd thing about the reflectors is that by themselves they
have no light. If you turn your headlights off (which I do not advise) the light disappears. The
reflectors need the light from the headlights to shine.

The bible in Matthew 5:14 says that Christians are the light of the world. What I take that to
mean is that we are to reflect the light of Jesus which is shined upon us when we believe in him.

The collect says “**May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world**”

These are fine words but what do they mean in the light of the Corona virus pandemic?

What does it mean in the light of the many who stand to lose their jobs because the work is just
not there?

What does it mean in the light of the many for whom the covid19 virus might overcome their
health? What does it mean for their families?

How do we, you and me, reflect the light of God in today's world.

Tough challenges for today's Christian. Especially, for most of us, this is the first global crisis
that we have encountered. The past is history, this is reality.

I want to leave you with these suggestions

1. **Stay in the Light.** If you want to reflect the light of Christ, you have to be in the light of
Christ. Our Psalm today Psalm 19 show how to stay in the light. Firstly, learn what God
teaches through his creation. “**The heavens declare the glory of God, and the
firmament show his handiworks**” It concerns me that many of us are replacing
camping, hiking, or being in God's creation where we can be washed in his glory, with
shopping trips in cities or holidays in walled in resorts where the manmade glory is

within and God's glory is at a comfortable distance. Secondly the psalm tells us to stay grounded in his word and find comfort, peace and contentment there. Staying in the light means staying in his glory, following his word, communicating with God and fellowshiping with other, even if it is at a social distance or through the phone or the internet.

2. **Secondly reach out to those around you.** There are many around you who are worried and need an encouraging word. The phone is great for this. There are many in self-isolation, I am on my second day. For some of us it was unexpected. I have to tell you how grateful I am for the person who let me know they are willing to get groceries or other things for me and drop them at my door. The phone calls that ask how I am. And the many assurances of prayers being said for me are truly a blessing to me. It tells me someone cares. That is living in the Light. That is reflecting the light of Jesus. That is sharing the light.
3. **Take care of yourself and your family.** God loves you. God values you greatly and wants to be safe and healthy. In this time of limited travel, social distancing and a reality of a dangerous disease we are asked to use our common sense in caring for ourselves, so we might care for others. Do not take unnecessary risks. If you do not feel well stay home and call 811 Alberta health or the equivalent number in your area. We want to share God's love and light, not the virus.

Jesus is the light of the world and we are reflectors of his light. "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Amen.