

# Jesus, the Light of the World

Christmas came as a miracle, as a gift of the Father which he lays into those arms that are stretched out in longing.

In a simple stable two millennia ago, the Light of the world came to those who walked in darkness. Although there are many ways today in which the world is still in darkness, we can look forward to the fact that the Light will return.

We can trust that God's light and love are always with us. And we can share God's Light with the people around us.

This Advent season, we want to remember that the Light has come, that the Light will come, that the Light is everlasting.

**The Christmas story radiates with light. John 1 reminds us that Jesus 'was with God in the beginning' (v1), that the Light of the world always has been and always will be there. We have confidence in the knowledge that '*the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it*' (v5).**

Even in the midst of sorrow, pain loneliness and poverty, God's light transforms people's lives with hope.

In the carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' we sing the verse that says:

*Yet in thy dark, streets shineth    The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years'    Are met in thee tonight.*

Today, we are called to walk and live in that light, to invite others into its warmth and be comforted by God's unconditional love.

**As God's people in the Church of the Ascension, we will be sharing the Light of Christ with people this Christmas, not only through meetings and Carol Services but also through our Food Bank, Toy Service, Christingle Service and more.**

But before we step into Christmas, Advent is a season of preparation for us to reflect on God's Everlasting Light. To acknowledge its enduring presence in times of darkness and to pray that it will brighten every part of our lives. We also pray this Advent for the church.

May the love of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, surround you all the days of your life.

**Merry Christmas to you and your family! Amen.**

*Rev. Nejib Boumenjel    Vicar of Hall Green Church of the Ascension*