

## *Walking in the Light of God*

St Philip's Anglican Church, O'Connor

Revd Jeannette McHugh

10th September 2006 Gospel Service

*Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 150; 1 John 1:1-7; John 1:1-14*

Today we have heard great words from the Bible.

It would do us well to hear them again.

From the prophet Isaiah,  
written nearly 3000 years ago...

**O descendants of Jacob,**

that's us

**come,**

**let us walk**

**in the light of the Lord.**

From the letter of John  
written nearly 2000 years ago:

**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.**

**If we say that we have fellowship  
with him while we are walking in  
darkness,  
we lie and do not do what is true;  
but if we walk in the light  
as he himself is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus his Son  
cleanses us from all sin.**

And from our gospel:

**The law indeed was given through  
Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus  
Christ.**

**No one has ever seen God.  
It is God the only Son,  
who is close to the Father's heart,  
who has made him known.**

These words give life to us.  
Walk in the light  
which is the light of God  
we will not be alone  
because we will be with God  
and in fellowship with others.

We will not be racked with guilt  
or envy or feelings of inadequacy  
or, at least, we shouldn't be,  
because we bear the light of God in us,  
we can confess our sins, and  
be cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

So we become... we really are...  
the light of God in the world.

God needs us  
to be his light in the world  
as the night needs the stars to show  
travellers the way to go.

So to remind ourselves of who we are,  
let us sing again the first verse  
of our opening hymn and we'll do  
some actions:

*This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

What does it tell us?

Our light is little

But

We are gonna let it shine

When?

Now

Always

Every day every night

Not just today, not just on Sundays

But always

Everyday... Always...

What does the second verse tell us to do?

Let's sing it again with actions:

*Everywhere I go  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Everywhere I go  
I'm gonna let it shine*

*Everywhere I go  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Everywhere we go ...  
Not just in church  
Not when we are in good company  
But everywhere we go  
Every day  
Every night  
Now and always

Now you might be thinking  
Well, ok, but how do I do this?  
How do I know if my light is really  
shining?

And is it bright enough?  
Do I have to polish it up a bit?  
Or get a different one?  
Do I need to be a spotlight  
rather than a torch or a candle?

The bible and our songs today  
tell us the answer and  
3 real examples for life today:

Christian meditation ... Amnesty  
International ... Toogong church...

We don't have to ask ourselves those  
questions.

We just have to be the light  
which is the light of God  
and when we are  
then if we live

Consciously  
Consistently  
Courageously

Then we will be the light of God  
in the world and we will bring  
peace to the world.  
and reconciliation and hope.

A high claim?  
Not so. Why not so?  
Because what we bring  
is not our own light  
is not our own cleverness  
is not our own sensitivity  
is not our own truth  
No it is not us, it is the light  
and grace and truth of God

given to us by God himself  
in the person of Jesus

So to remind us of this great truth  
which sets us free from fretting and  
fear and worry

let us sing again the third verse of our  
hymn with actions:

*Jesus gave it to me  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Jesus gave it to me  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Jesus gave it to me  
I'm gonna let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

So don't worry about the outcome  
Don't worry about how shiny you are  
Just let the light shine  
Just **be the light of God** in the world  
Just shine and keep walking in the light  
of God.

And if we do we will be doing  
what we have been told to do since  
the beginning of our faith story.

It is our high calling  
to make our world a better place,  
full of grace and truth  
and closer to the heart of God.

**Amen**