

# Light and Darkness

## Advent Liturgy

Responses are in **bold print**

(A few moments of silence)

### LEADER

Sign of the Cross

'Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.'

(John 1:3-5)

**TEAM MEMBER 1:** In the beginning, Lord  
I was alone  
Like the earth  
before your Spirit moved over the waters.  
I was formless and empty  
and darkness filled the depths of my heart.  
Then, it was as if you declared  
'Let there be Light'  
and out of the darkness  
I began to see hope  
like a shimmering ray of love  
breaking through the parting clouds  
at the conclusion of the night.  
In the beginning, Lord I was alone  
but when I saw you in the light I was no longer afraid.  
You held out your hand  
and though I had a choice  
I had no choice  
because to refuse  
was to embrace again the darkness.  
In the beginning, Lord I was alone  
now I am again a part  
of your creation  
loved, wanted, needed, family.  
In the light of your presence  
I hold out my heart that others  
might glimpse through it your reflection  
and be drawn from the darkness that I once embraced  
into the light of your sunrise  
the brightness of your face



# ENCOURAGE - EQUIP - EMPOWER

Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team

## TEAM MEMBER 2

Lord Jesus, Son of God, Saviour of the world

**All: Be the centre of all that we are, and the life that we lead**

Lord Jesus, Light in this dark World, illuminate our hearts and minds

**All: Be the centre of all that we are, and the life that we lead**

## SONG

Prepare Ye the way of the Lord refrain

## TEAM MEMBER 3

'There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.'

(John 1:6-9)

**(A moment of silence)**

## TEAM MEMBER 4

In the lonely places  
The wilderness  
Where we stand forlorn  
Windswept and alone  
Your voice calls out  
**Prepare a way for the Lord**

In the dark places  
The shadows  
Where we hide our fears  
Embrace our tears  
Your voice calls out  
**Prepare a way for the Lord**

## TEAM MEMBER 5

For the desert places in which we walk  
The streets we roam  
The paths we cross  
Guide our feet  
Take us to places  
Where you would go  
Give us words that you would use  
That in this Advent season  
Of promise and preparation  
We might point the way with John the Baptist  
To the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

## TEAM MEMBER 6

O come, Thou Day-spring, from on high,  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.



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**ALL: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come again and with us ever dwell**

**Intercessions** - A circle prayer

**TEAM MEMBER** Circle us, Lord  
Circle us with the light of your presence, bright within this dark world  
Enable us to be overcomers of fear and temptation  
Enable us to be victors over sin and despair  
Enable us to become that which you would desire  
(Silent prayer)  
Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation  
**Circle us with the light of your presence**

Circle us, Lord  
Circle our family within the shelter of your outstretched arms  
Protect them in each moment of their daily lives  
Protect them in the decisions that they face  
Protect their homes and relationships  
(Silent prayer)  
Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation  
**Circle our families with the light of your presence**

Circle us, Lord  
Circle this nation with Advent love and hope  
Create a desire to listen to the Advent message  
Create a willingness to understand and respond  
Create a need to reach out to the Christ Child  
(Silent prayer)  
Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation  
**Circle our nation with the light of your presence**

Circle us, Lord  
Circle this world with the joy of your Salvation  
Where there is sickness and disease bring healing  
Where there is hunger and despair bring hope  
Where there is torture and oppression bring release  
(Silent prayer)  
Lord of creation, Lord of Salvation  
**Circle this world with the light of your presence**

Lord, thou hast given us thy Word for a light to shine upon our path;  
grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching,  
that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

SONG: This little light of mine/ My lighthouse



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