



ADVENT KNITALONG

2024

WELCOME TO OUR ADVENT KNITALONG REFLECTIONS!

REFLECTIONS

This Advent our reflections will centre on the theme of light in the midst of darkness. For those of us in the Northern part of the Northern hemisphere, Advent coincides with a dark time of year. We get up in darkness in the mornings and it is dark by the time we return home from work again in the late afternoon. The coming of the light of Jesus at Christmas has great

symbolic value. But even when it is dark, most of us these days will have easy access to light by the simple flick of a switch. And those of us living in cities are surrounded by the constant glow of light, which reduces the number of visible stars and makes the difference between a full and a new moon almost negligible. Many of us have probably lost that sense of what it means to be trapped in utter darkness, the sense of isolation and disorientation it brings and the consequent preciousness of a light which dispels the darkness. To those living in Biblical times this will have been an everyday experience.



Of course, we are all likely to encounter metaphorical times of darkness in our lives. Times of isolation, confusion and pain. The dark night of our soul. Each day of the knitalong there will be a different verse from the Bible on the theme of light. As you read and meditate on these verses while doing your knitting, consider how they would be received by someone without easy access to electrical light. And how might they comfort and support you in the dark times of your life.

Many of you will have heard about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor, who stood up against the Nazis in the 1930s and '40s. He was imprisoned in Berlin in 1943. In 1944, after the plot to assassinate Hitler failed and Bonhoeffer's involvement in it came to light, he knew his time was probably up and he was moved to the cellars of the Gestapo headquarters in Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse. Sitting in this heart of darkness he wrote to his fiancée in December 1944 the following words:

[...]

*Warm and bright, let the candles burn tonight,
Which you brought into our darkness
If it can be, bring us together again!
We know your light shines in the night.*

[...]

*Surrounded and protected by powers of goodness,
Feeling comforted, we await whatever may come.
God is with us in the evening and the morning
And most assuredly on every new day.*

May we come to know the light of God in our lives, so that we can echo those words when faced with our own darkness.

1ST DECEMBER

Matthew 4:16

The people living in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

2ND DECEMBER

John 9:5

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

3RD DECEMBER

Micah 7:8

Do not gloat over me, my enemy!
Though I have fallen, I will rise.
Though I sit in darkness,
the Lord will be my light.

4TH DECEMBER

Psalms 18:28

You, Lord, keep my lamp burning;
my God turns my darkness into light.

5TH DECEMBER

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

6TH DECEMBER

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

7TH DECEMBER

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

8TH DECEMBER

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

9TH DECEMBER

1 John 1:5

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

10TH DECEMBER

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

11TH DECEMBER

Genesis 1:3

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

12TH DECEMBER

Ecclesiastes 2:13

I saw that wisdom is better than folly,
just as light is better than darkness.

13TH DECEMBER

Psalms 139:7-12

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

14TH DECEMBER

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

15TH DECEMBER

Ephesians 5:14

This is why it is said:
"Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

16TH DECEMBER

Luke 11:34-35

Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.

17TH DECEMBER

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

18TH DECEMBER

Revelation 21:23

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

19TH DECEMBER

Ephesians 5:8

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

20TH DECEMBER

Luke 2:8-15

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

21ST DECEMBER

Luke 2:28-32

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss^[a] your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

22ND DECEMBER

Matthew 5:14

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

23RD DECEMBER

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

24TH DECEMBER

Isaiah 42:6-7

I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,
to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

25TH DECEMBER

Matthew 2:9-11

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Wishing you all very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2025,
With love from all of us at Victoria Methodist Church xxx

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