

Worship Material
How we stay in the light
Materials from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 10th March

Begin with an opening prayer

Wonderful God, in the very beginning,
the first thing you gave us was your light,
your heavenly light,
even before you made the sun.
In your light we flourish.
And we call your Son, Jesus Christ,
the light of the world.
He reaches into our darkness,
and heals us, and makes us whole.
Today, help us to learn how
to be children of your light.

Amen

Read John 3: 14-21

Bible notes

The perspective of the world portrayed in John's Gospel is one of contrasts: life and death, light and darkness. There is no 'in between', no shadows, no half-light. People choose: life or death, light or darkness. John picks up the imagery of the bronze serpent in this week's Old Testament reading. Just as anyone who chose to look up at the bronze serpent would live, so anyone who believes in Jesus will live. The act of looking at the serpent was an act of faith, of looking for healing; so too is looking to Jesus for healing which brings life. John's explanation of this is God's unconditional love.

The newly formed people of God in the Old Testament reading needed tangible ways to understand God and to express themselves to God. So, they were given ways of doing this – the sacrificial system, offerings, the bronze serpent. The need persists; but now, says John, God loves the world so much that God comes to the world in person – a truly tangible way of demonstrating how to live in the light.

Prayer

A prayer of praise

Almighty God, we praise and thank you for being always with us by our side and within us.

Almighty God, in the darkness of night you are with us.

Almighty God, in the light of dawn as sun breaks on the horizon, you are with us.

Almighty God, in the noonday sun, its heat and brightness, you are with us.

Almighty God, in the fading light of dusk when shadows fall, you are with us.

Almighty God, in the darkness of night, in the stillness it brings, you are with us.

Almighty God, we praise and thank you.

Amen

A prayer to conclude

Loving God, we humans are afraid of the darkness.

But, for you, darkness and light are alike, and no problem.

You can see in the dark, and we can put our hand in yours and trust you, knowing that the light will dawn again – in your time.

Amen