

SONG

I have a light
and it always shines.
It shines in the day
and it shines in the night.
And when the dark day comes
and the sun isn't bright
well I will be shining,
'cos I have a light.

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BLESSING

O God,
whose joy is beyond our imagining,
whose light we cannot comprehend:
help us to enter the cloud that hides
your glory, and surrender our certainty
to the drawing of your love.
And may the blessing of God,
Maker, Revealer and bringer of Life,
be with you and enlighten your way,
this night, this day and always. **Amen**

*We invite contributions to the ministry of
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BENEDICTUS
contemplative church

TRANSFIGURATION
6 AUGUST 2022
**THE DARKNESS SHALL BE THE
LIGHT**

WELCOME — Sarah Bachelard

OPENING RESPONSES

Your steadfast love, O Lord,
extends to the heavens:
your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like
the mighty mountains,
your judgements are like the great deep:
**you save humans and animals alike,
O Lord.**

How precious is your steadfast love,
O God!
**All people may take refuge in the
shadow of your wings.**

For with you is the source of life:
in your light we see light.

Psalm 36.5-7, 9

ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord you are in this place,
fill us with your power,
enfold us with your peace,
reveal to us your presence.

Give us now,
eyes to see you hidden,
ears to hear your call,
hearts open to your love. **Amen**

SONG

Lead, lead O kindly light
lead thou me on,
O lead, lead O kindly light,
lead thou me on.
Amidst this circling gloom
I place my trust in you
O lead thou me on.
Lead, lead O kindly light
lead thou me on, O lead –
lead o kindly light, lead thou me on.
My soul yearns for you, God of my life
O lead thou me on.
Lead kindly light ...

Words by Noel Davis. Music by John Coleman.
from *Falling into Light* 2022.

THE WORD OF GOD

Let us listen for the Word of God.

Mark 9. 2-8

REFLECTION

MEDITATION

To meditate, sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently, interiorly begin to say a single word. We recommend the prayer-phrase, 'Maranatha'. Say it as four syllables of equal length. Listen to it as you say it, gently but continuously. Do not think or imagine anything – spiritual or otherwise. If thoughts and images come, these are distractions at the time of meditation, so keep returning simply to saying the word.

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PRAYERS

Lead, kindly light (x4)

If I say, 'Surely darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night, even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you'.

(Psalm 139.11-12)

We pray for those confined in dark places. We remember children working underground in mines, women enclosed in the cages of sex clubs, prisoners in solitary confinement and asylum seekers locked in Australian hotel rooms. We pray for all who are not free to enjoy the light of day. May they know your presence with them as light in the dark. (*Chant*)

We pray for those lost in the fog of confusion. We remember those who are suffering with dementia or fearing the loss of clarity, those who are blown off course by trauma and unable to find their way, those who are debilitated by depression, anxiety or a sense of no future. May they know your presence with them as clearing in the cloud. (*Chant*)

We pray for those whose live in the glare of public scrutiny, and those who fear invisibility lest they cease to be. We remember those in public office, those compulsively self-expressed on social media and all who afraid of the hidden places in their souls. May they know your presence with them as shelter from bedazzling. (*Chant*)

CLOSING PRAYER

Bring us, O Lord God,
at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate and dwell in
that house, where there shall be no
darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal
possession; no ends nor beginnings, but
one equal eternity: in the habitations of
thy majesty and glory, world without end.

Amen

John Donne, 'Our Last Awakening'