

Cheltenham United Methodist Church

ADVENT

G R E A T E X P E C T A T I O N S



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LIGHTNING OF THE CANDLES

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reader: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

LIGHTNING OF THE CANDLES

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).

Second Reader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

UPDATES

Monday, December 15, 2025

Monday Methodists 9am

Knitting Circle 10am

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Pastor's Office Hour 2pm-4pm

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Pastor's Office Hour 10pm-12noon

Advent Bible Study

Wed, December 17, 2025, 11am

Tue, December 23, 2025, 11am

Heaven and Earth by Will Willimon

Tuesday, December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

Monday, January 12, 2026

**Planning Meeting & Church Council
12noon**

M A R K Y O U R C A L E N D A R

GREETING

Today we rejoice, for good news is revealed to us!

Those who felt unworthy now find joy and blessing in God's love.

God's mercy brings sight, strength, hearing, and peace to all people.

God's love refreshes our souls with everlasting joy.

Behold, God's compassion surrounds us this day.

Rejoice and trust in God's joyful power. Amen.

PRAYER

O Loving God, you know the dry and weary places within our hearts.

We long for your healing grace.

Guide us on this Advent path toward renewal and the joy of redemption, through Jesus Christ, our Source of life. Amen.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

UMH 211

*Words: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab The Hymnal, 1940;
st. Henry Sloane Conffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986*

Music: 15th cent. French; arr. And harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

*Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund;
trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House;
antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict. CCLI License Account #3551380*

Played by Chiara Griffith



O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*



“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” v.1

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*



“© Come, © Come, Emmanuel” v.2

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*



“© Come, © Come, Emmanuel” v.3

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
and peoples on thy mercy call.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*



“© Come, © Come, Emmanuel” v.4



+PASSING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC



SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

*Writer: Ken Medema (1973)
© 1973, Hope Publishing Company
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“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”



LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come; thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

A person stands on a grassy hill, looking out over a mountain range at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The person is silhouetted against the bright light. The mountains in the background are hazy and layered. The foreground is filled with tall grass and some small white flowers.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206

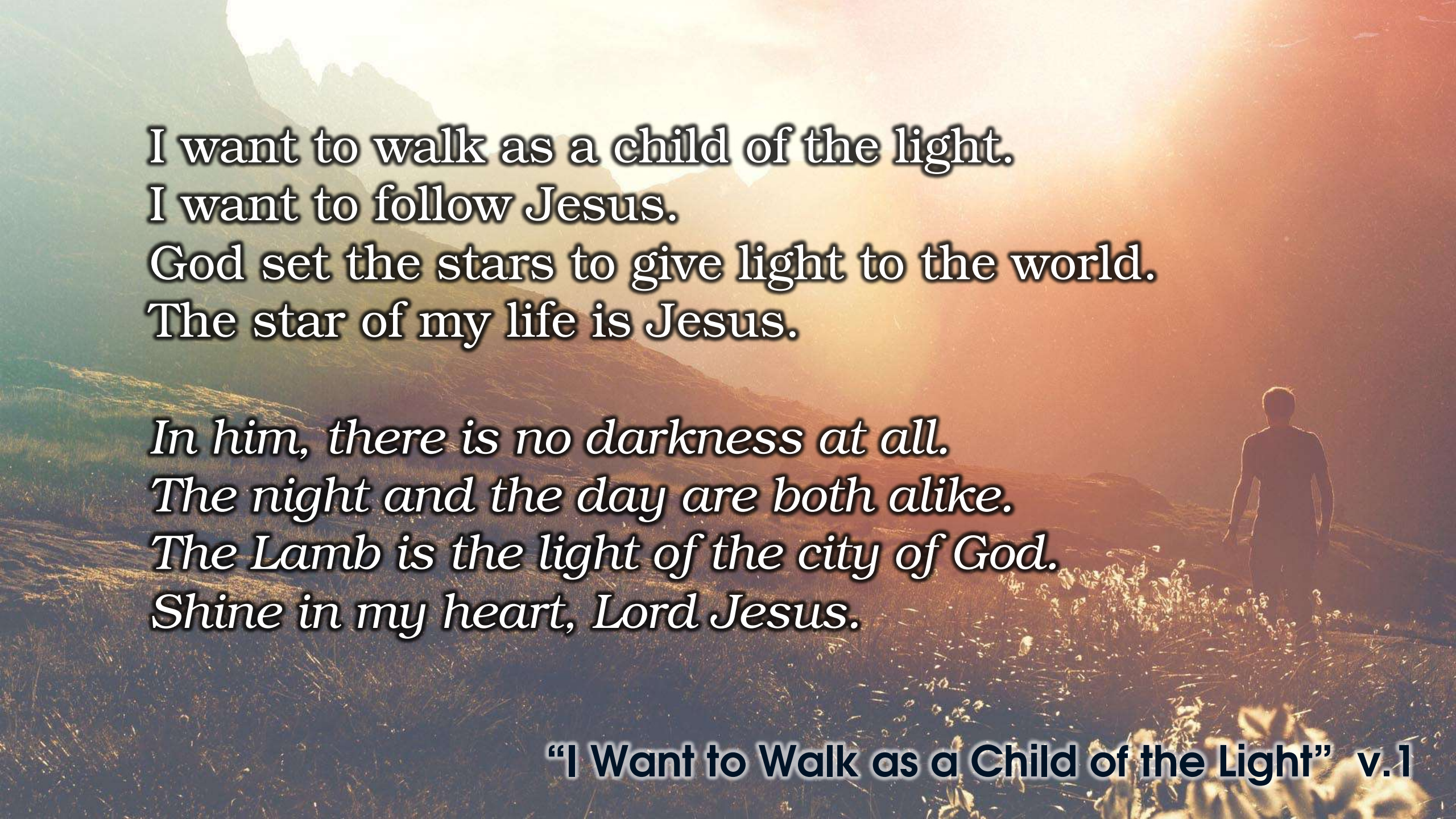
Words: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

Music: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

Tune: HOUSTON

© 1970, 1975 Celebration. CCLI License Account #3551380

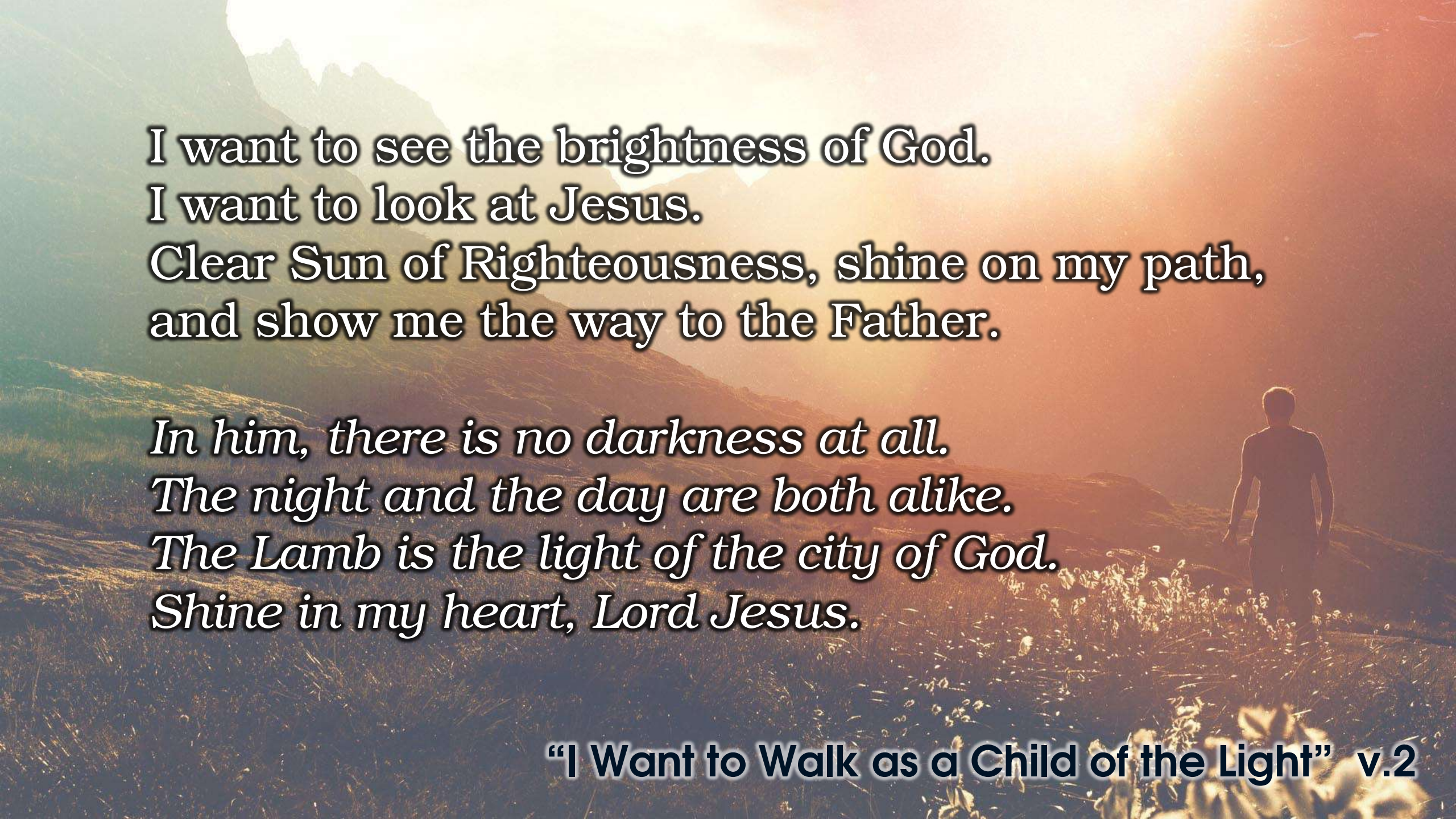
Played by Chiara Griffith

A person is walking away from the viewer on a dirt path that leads towards a bright, glowing light source, likely the sun, in the distance. The landscape is hilly and covered in grass and some wildflowers. The overall tone is warm and hopeful, with the light creating a strong silhouette effect on the person and the surrounding terrain.

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

*In him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

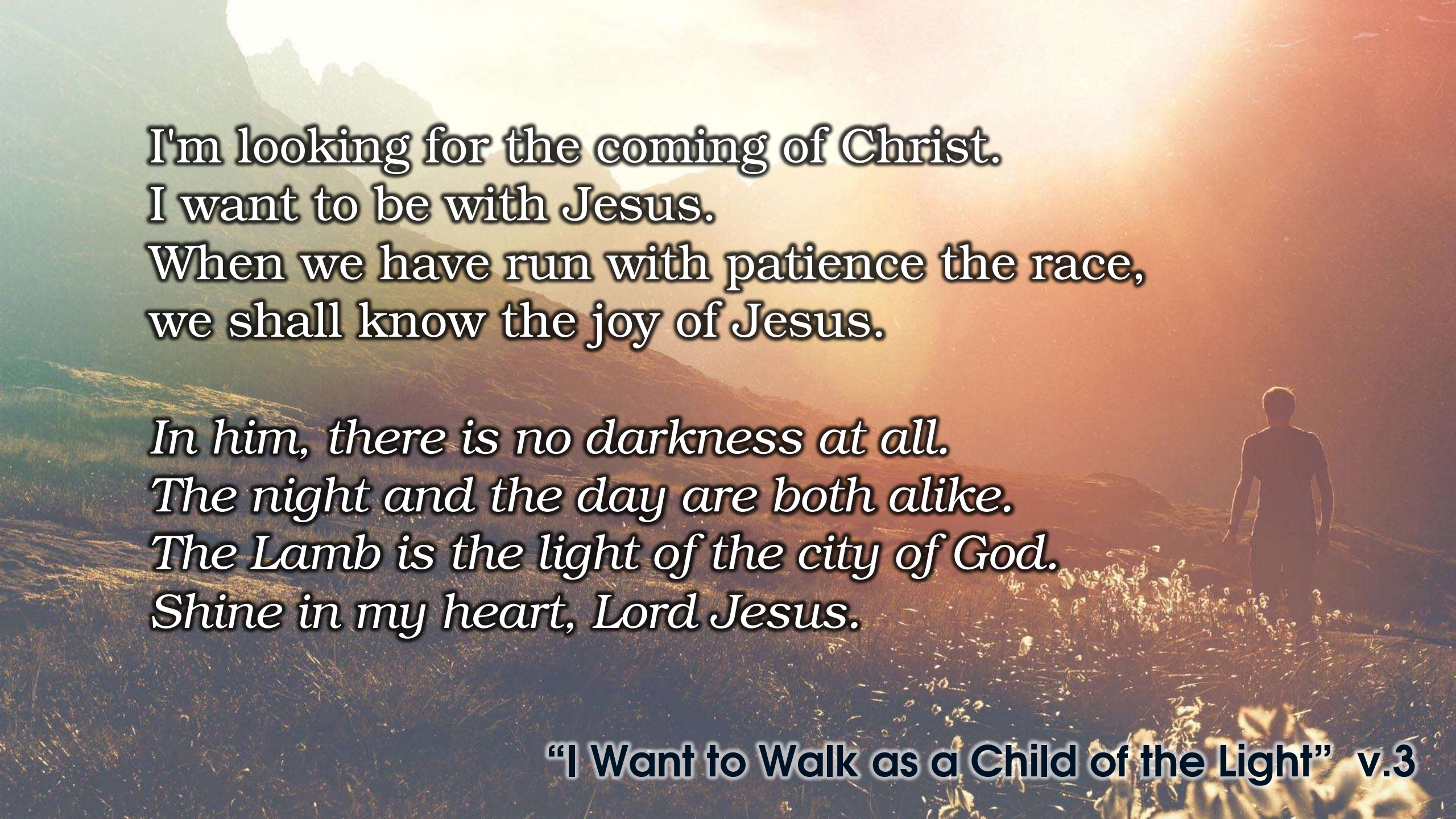
“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” v.1

A person is seen from behind, walking along a path that leads towards a bright, glowing light source, likely the sun, in a hilly, grassy landscape. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The person is walking away from the viewer, towards the horizon where the light is brightest. The hills are covered in grass and some small white flowers are visible in the foreground.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

*In him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” v.2

A person is walking away from the viewer on a path that leads towards a bright, glowing light source, likely the sun, in the distance. The landscape is hilly and covered in grass and some wildflowers. The overall tone is warm and hopeful, with the light creating a strong silhouette effect on the person and the surrounding terrain.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

*In him, there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” v.3

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 146:5-10 NRSV

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, ⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; ⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; ⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 146:5-10 NRSV

⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. ¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

James 5:7-10 NRSV

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

SERMON

Joy: The Resilient Celebration

Rev. Daein Park

OFFERTORY “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” UMH 216

*Music: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609, Tune: ES IST EIN ROS
St. 3 © 1940, 1943, renewed 1971 The Church Pension Fund. CCLI License Account #3551380*

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Cheltenham UMC
P.O. Box 146
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DOXOLOGY

UMH 95. Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Music: attr. to Louis Bourgeois. Tune: OLD 100th

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Played by Chiara Griffith

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER





Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

Words: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by John W. Work, Jr., 1907 (Lk. 2:8-20)

Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986

Tune: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

CCLI License Account #3551380

Played by Chiara Griffith

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.*



While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light.



“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” v.1

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.*



The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior's birth.



"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" v.2

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.*



Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” v.3



+BENEDICTION

GOODBYE

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK

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