



16 December 2025

***The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light***

The Midnight readings at Christmas lead us from promise to fulfilment, from longing to gift and from darkness to light.

The Prophet Isaiah gives voice to a people who knew war, occupation, fear and uncertainty. Today, as war rages in so many places and innocent lives are lost, Isaiah's words are not distant poetry but are a cry of faith. The "people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" tell us that God has not abandoned the world. A light has been kindled that the darkness cannot overcome. Acts of terrorism in more recent times cannot extinguish the light regardless of how dark these acts are.

Saint Paul writing to Titus, reminds us that this light is a gift: "God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible ..."

Christmas is not something we achieve; it is something we receive. God enters the world as it is. In a world that so often chooses death over life, power over service, fear over compassion, God responds not by force but with grace. The gift of pure light at Christmas is God's own self, poured out for the life of the world.

And so we come to Bethlehem. Luke tells us of a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. No palace. No weapons. Yet the angels proclaim: "Glory to God in the highest ..." God becomes flesh and blood. God enters the messiness of human history and chooses to love.

This Christmas we must also choose to love with every fibre of our being. Let us pray that the light of Christ may shine into every darkness – personal, communal and global. May Christ soften our hearts, strengthen our faith and awaken in us a deeper commitment to choose life.

For unto us a child is born. And in Him so too is a saviour. May we now receive the greatest gift of all and embrace the ONE who makes all things possible. Sin, hatred and war do not define our destiny. Love does. God in Jesus Christ does.

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