

DAY 7 LIGHT

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

A few years ago, my parents moved to a town up in the mountains near Redding. Driving to their house at night is a long winding road that feels like it's leading to the middle of nowhere. It's not a road traveled much, and it's especially desolate at night. On our last trip, something in me wants to see what it would look like if I turned what seemed to be the only light source around, my headlights. So I pulled over at the next turn out and

turned off my lights. It was terrifyingly dark. A winding road to my parents suddenly became a pitch-black unknown that actually took our breath away for a moment. I imagined what it would be like walking through this darkness without a car to protect me or headlights to lead me. It was a scary thought.

We're no strangers to darkness. And things get darker with every news channel and social media page. I'll admit, there are times when I look at the state of our world; it seems hopeless. Isaiah 9:2 talks about this same kind of hopelessness when it describes the Israelites as people "who walked in darkness." If you remember from advent, it was some 400 years when God seemed to go silent. Generations of people waiting to hear from God waited for his plan of redemption.

But we are not people who walk in darkness, living without hope. We have seen a great light—the light of the world. As followers of Jesus, we follow a light. When things seem dark, we can remind ourselves that we are not wandering alone in the dark.

Jesus coming to earth is about God looking at humanity and deciding to do something about this darkness. He saw a broken world, suffering, lost in the darkness of our sin. He decided his children needed light, and that light came in the form of his son.

Daily Practice

Today, light a candle as a reminder that you have a guiding light. That we don't have to wander the darkness alone, but with a guide who loves and cares for us.

The below reflections are written by congregants & staff of CPC. All reflections are following Trevor Hudson's book *Pauses for Lent* and are both heavily influenced and borrowed from his work. Any quotes without attribution should be credited to him.