

Reflection



- Showing love
- Giving hope
- Bringing peace

The Church of St John & St Leonard

Isaiah 60:1-3

Wednesday 27th May 2020

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.*

*² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.*

*³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

Have you ever watched the sun rising over water? The sky breaking into sweeping colours – pinks and purples, oranges and reds – proclaiming the beauty of a brand new day. The water glistening – reflecting the beauty above and adding its own glory.

The passage I have chosen comes from the book of Isaiah, calling us all to arise – to gaze once more upon the glory of God – recognising that His light is rising upon each and every one of us. Calling us to live lives, empowered by the Spirit of God which reflect the incredible light of God. Like the water gazing upon the sunrise, our call as the people of God is to reflect His incredible light. As the Bible Commentator John Oswalt expresses it, we are called to shine with a beauty that is not our own.

It is an invitation that is amazing and humbling, but if we are honest, there are days we feel like the call is too much for us – as we look at the darkness the passage describes, there may be times where we feel surrounded by it too. As we experience loss, anxiety and grief as so many are at the moment.

I love this passage from Isaiah as it reminds us that it is in the midst of this darkness that the glory of the Lord rises upon us and upon everyone who gazes upon the light of Christ. We are not called to be perfect, we are not called to live this life in our own strength – but wherever we are today, however we are feeling – we are invited to look up – to see the Lord rising upon us, his glory shining, his promise beckoning. Our circumstances may not change instantly but our focus can as we gaze up and delight in the rising light of Christ. And as it does God empowers us to live lives that reflect His light and to speak out his prophetic words of hope over our nation.

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And then we hear the amazing promise that as people see the light of Christ – reflected through his people – nations will be drawn to that light – and more and more people will come to know the saving, lifechanging love of God. And so at this time of Thy Kingdom Come, as we pray for the nations to come to know the love and peace of Christ, we see the glory of the Lord rising upon us – reflecting his light to those desperately searching for a sunrise.

I wonder when you last saw a sunrise that had the power to transform your life?

Let us pray:

Lord we pray that today we would be alert to seeing your glory rising upon us. We ask for your strength and the empowering of your Spirit to enable us to live lives which reflect your glory wherever we find ourselves today. And we pray that the nations would see Your light shining so brightly in the darkness and that they would flock to your light, your love and your peace. Amen

Rev Vicki Bryson

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