

## The Last Sunday of Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 15, 2026

### “Living in the Light: Children of Light”

Ephesians 5:6-14 & Matthew 5:14-20

This morning, as we conclude this series, the movement shifts \_\_\_\_\_. Not because the inward work is finished—because it never is—but because light, by its very nature, doesn’t remain \_\_\_\_\_. Light received becomes light shared. Light encountered inevitably becomes light \_\_\_\_\_.

The Christian life isn’t just about being \_\_\_\_\_, but also about being \_\_\_\_\_—not to draw attention to ourselves, but to allow God’s light to shine through lives that are quietly \_\_\_\_\_ by faith, hope, and love.

It’s not telling us that we’re the \_\_\_\_\_ of the light. We don’t generate it, manufacture it, or \_\_\_\_\_ upon it by anything we do or don’t do. Christ alone is the Light of the World. And we’re called to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

Our calling is derivative, \_\_\_\_\_, and deeply relational. We shine because we’ve first been \_\_\_\_\_.

This matters because a faith that lives in the light is a faith that learns how to dwell in God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and then carry that presence into relationships, homes, workplaces, churches, and neighbourhoods.

#1. \_\_\_\_\_.

“You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14)

Jesus speaks \_\_\_\_\_—He tells them who they are—before He gives a command.

The light they bear isn’t something they \_\_\_\_\_ through effort or moral strength; it’s something they’ve already \_\_\_\_\_ by being with Him.

The Christian life isn’t about us trying harder to shine, it’s about \_\_\_\_\_ shining on us, in us, and through us.

The light we carry is His life at work within us. Any attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ that—any attempt to treat light as a product of our own effort rather than a gift of \_\_\_\_\_, can lead to pride, exhaustion, and eventually, \_\_\_\_\_.

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8)

Notice Paul’s language here. He isn’t talking about a past and present \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, but a past and present \_\_\_\_\_.

He doesn’t say that the Ephesians once \_\_\_\_\_ in darkness, but that they \_\_\_\_\_ darkness. Likewise, he doesn’t say they now merely \_\_\_\_\_ in the light, but that they \_\_\_\_\_ light in the Lord.

Again, this isn’t self-generated moral improvement or spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. This is transformation rooted in a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with Jesus, who is the source of light because He’s Light of the World.

We’re not asked to produce brilliance. We’re invited to remain \_\_\_\_\_, and let Christ’s light pass through the ordinary material of our everyday lives into the world around us. When we forget this, faith becomes \_\_\_\_\_. When we remember it, \_\_\_\_\_ becomes possible.

This matters because many Christians—and I know I’ve been guilty of this—quietly carry the burden of thinking that letting our light shine means that we must appear bright, \_\_\_\_\_, and spiritually impressive all the time. And we worry that if our faith feels dim, we’ve \_\_\_\_\_.

Scripture offers a gentler truth: we’re not called to be \_\_\_\_\_, we’re called to \_\_\_\_\_. Light shines best not through perfection, but through honesty, openness, and \_\_\_\_\_, by being \_\_\_\_\_ with God, ourselves, and others.

Living as children of light always begins with \_\_\_\_\_.

It means returning again and again to Word and Sacrament, and to prayer, worship, and community, not as duty or techniques for \_\_\_\_\_, but as places where Jesus meets us and \_\_\_\_\_ us.

We bear the light faithfully when we remember where it comes from, and we reflect it best when we stop trying to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

#### How do you bear the light in your everyday life?

#2. \_\_\_\_\_.

“A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.” (Matthew 5:14-15)

The point He’s making isn’t that faith should be flashy or \_\_\_\_\_, but rather \_\_\_\_\_, real, and visible. Light, by its nature, makes itself known. It doesn’t need to boldly or dramatically \_\_\_\_\_ itself.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven,” (Matthew 5:16)

He isn't calling the disciples to \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness, but to \_\_\_\_\_ righteously and faithfully where they already are.

This distinction matters deeply because there's a kind of public faith that can be performative, that's concerned with \_\_\_\_\_, recognition, and approval.

Jesus commends a different kind of faith—a quiet, \_\_\_\_\_ faith that becomes visible simply because it's lived \_\_\_\_\_, graciously, and humbly, without pride or \_\_\_\_\_. When we live out that kind of faith, the glory doesn't land on, or rest on us, but passes through us and returns to God where it \_\_\_\_\_ belongs.

“Live as children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8)

He doesn't instruct them to draw \_\_\_\_\_ to themselves, but calls them to a way of life marked by goodness, righteousness, and \_\_\_\_\_. These may not be dramatic virtues, but they are \_\_\_\_\_ ones. They show up slowly, \_\_\_\_\_, and often unnoticed—until, over time, they begin to \_\_\_\_\_ hearts, lives, churches, and communities.

It's living with \_\_\_\_\_ when it would be easier to cut corners. It's living with \_\_\_\_\_ when no one is watching. It's living \_\_\_\_\_ when silence would be more convenient.

Over time, this kind of living—this light—becomes unmistakable—not because it demands attention, but because it offers warmth and \_\_\_\_\_ in a dark and chaotic world.

Bearing the light doesn't require a platform. It requires \_\_\_\_\_.

We may not be called to dramatic, public acts of faith; however, we are called to live everyday lives of faith and \_\_\_\_\_ where ever we find ourselves—lives shaped by prayer, patience, generosity, \_\_\_\_\_, compassion, grace, and love. It means trusting that God uses the \_\_\_\_\_ lives of ordinary people, quietly lived, to \_\_\_\_\_ His presence. The light we bear shines most clearly when it's not \_\_\_\_\_, exaggerated, or defended, but simply allowed to be seen through lives rooted, grounded, and anchored in \_\_\_\_\_.

When faith is lived out this way, it becomes an \_\_\_\_\_ rather than performance or pressure. And God, not the believer, receives the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **How are you living out the light in your everyday life?**

#3. \_\_\_\_\_.  
Both Jesus and Paul are clear that the light we bear isn't \_\_\_\_\_, but is made

visible and \_\_\_\_\_ through the shape of our \_\_\_\_\_.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks of good works—not as a way of earning God's favour, but as the natural \_\_\_\_\_ of a life rooted in Him. And in Ephesians,

fruit = “...all that is good and right and true.” (Ephesians 5:9)

These aren't extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_ accomplished by super-spiritual Christians, they're ordinary acts of \_\_\_\_\_, repeated over time, by ordinary people, like you and me.

We sometimes imagine that bearing the light requires \_\_\_\_\_ gestures or public moments of great courage. However, Scripture points to a quieter, steadier path. The light of Christ is most often carried into the world through daily \_\_\_\_\_.

“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” (Ephesians 5:11)

This exposure doesn't happen primarily through argument, \_\_\_\_\_, coercion, or condemnation. It happens when lives shaped by Christ reveal a different way of being \_\_\_\_\_. Light exposes darkness simply by being \_\_\_\_\_. It shows what's true by living truthfully. It reveals what's good by choosing goodness. It unmask what's false by walking \_\_\_\_\_ in the light.

A life shaped by obedience slowly leaves a \_\_\_\_\_. Patterns of prayer, forgiveness, honesty, and generosity begin to mark a way forward that others can see and eventually \_\_\_\_\_.

Living as children of light means embracing the significance of small acts of \_\_\_\_\_. It means trusting that what feels ordinary to us is often the very thing God uses to make His presence \_\_\_\_\_.

This kind of obedience requires \_\_\_\_\_. It asks us to believe that God is at work even when we can't see Him, or when the results aren't \_\_\_\_\_. It calls us to remain faithful not because we can see the outcome, but because we \_\_\_\_\_ the One who sends us.

Lent doesn't ask us to escape the world, but to engage it more honestly; to walk more \_\_\_\_\_, and to live more deliberately as people of the light. Bearing the light isn't about drawing \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves.

### **How obediently are you bearing the light in your everyday life?**