



hub news

A Church at the heart of the community - With God at the heart of our church

Date: Sunday 19 June 2022

Today at Hub

11 am Café Church. There will be a light lunch served immediately after the worship service and everyone is invited to stay and join in that.

Welcome

We give you a very warm welcome to church this morning as we gather to worship God together. Our prayer is that God will graciously meet with us and speak the words that we need to hear and words that will encourage us as we go out on a new week.

Prayer Meeting

You are reminded of the prayer meeting on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm via Zoom. Everyone is invited to join this meeting either for the whole time, usually about an hour, or for a shorter period depending on your own availability.

Re-Dedication of War Memorial

There is to be a short service of re-dedication of the war memorial in front of the National Hotel on next Sunday 26 June at 2pm. It is 100 years since the original memorial was erected and dedicated. There will be a parade and short service which Ian hopes to lead. You are all invited to attend as we remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice for our freedom.

What it Means to be Light.

In [Matthew 5:14-16](#), Jesus compares his followers to light, saying we "are the light of the world," unable to be hidden. No one puts a lamp under a bowl because a lamp is designed to help people see in dark places. Christ's words and actions showed the true nature of the world around Him. Christ-followers give light to those

around them by doing and saying what Jesus did. By growing in relationship with Jesus every day, following Him step by step, we partner with Him in spreading the truth.

Another of Jesus's disciples, John, said it this way: "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" ([1 John 1:5-7](#)).

Light cannot be anything other than what it is. It's bright; it dispels darkness; it enables people to see what they are doing. God is light, and since He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside believers, so are we. As his ambassadors on earth, we shine even when we don't know it.

Jesus told His followers to "let your light shine before others," calling them to live an active faith, not a passive one. Put your light on its stand. Your circumstances are an opportunity to shine brightly for the Lord and to share God's overcoming truth with those around you. Your family and community can tell what you believe by how you live.

Reflect:

- What situation are you in right now in which you have to exercise faith in God?
- How can you share your faith with others in the midst of your circumstances?

You Are the Light of the World.

Christ used the metaphor of light to describe the believer. As He looked around the hillside at those who were His disciples, He told them they were the light of the world (v. 14). In the days when the New Testament was written, a household lamp consisted of an earthenware container of oil with a wick half in the oil and partly showing out of a small hole at one end. Unfortunately, there were no matches in those days, which made it difficult to relight a lamp

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10 & 12 Hill Street, Dingwall

when they went out of the house, so most people kept the lamp burning but shortened the wick so that it didn't use up all the oil in the light.

The householder would usually set the lamp up high in the room on a tall stand, but the lampstand could be knocked over, and oil on the floor along with a lighted wick could be dangerous, hence the need to sometimes protect the lit lamp by hiding it under a basket. When they needed bright light, they brought out the lamp from under the basket, put more oil in it, and pulled the wick out further to fill the room with light (Matthew 25:7-8).

By referencing His people as lights in the world, the Lord said that instead of hiding our testimony of Christ, lowering our light, and hiding away, we are to shine in dark times and push out the darkness. The light that comes from believers was not their light. God is not expecting us to present ourselves as the answer to man's problems; our light is reflected light, i.e., the Light of the World is Jesus (John 9:5). When people of this world look at us, they should see Christ:

Let's think of the early apostles as our example. After God healed the lame man through Peter and John at the Gate Beautiful in Jerusalem, the apostles went through persecution at the hands of Israel's religious leaders for doing the good deed. The disciples responded by pointing away from themselves to the Lord Jesus as the Healer. They said:

Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well (Acts 4:8-10).

Think of the boldness of the Spirit-empowered apostles. Something about their response took the rulers and elders by surprise. How were the elders to respond to someone disregarding their authority? The elders of Israel put Peter and John outside and talked among themselves about the two apostles. They acknowledged that there was something different at work in their midst, and they recognized the tell-tale signs that the disciples had been with Jesus. The Lord was the One glorified as the Healer.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, in the same way, believers reflect the glory of the Lord and speak forth His message of life. When we live our lives in close relationship to the Lord Jesus, those around us will see Christ shining through us, not us. This reflected light is not to be lived out just among believers, though, for Jesus didn't say, "You are the light of the church." No, He said that we "are the light of the world" (v. 14). As believers, we are to be guiding harbour lights or lighthouses that show forth the way to the safe harbour of Christ. Good works will be seen by those who are in the darkness of the world system in which we live, and true reflections of the Light of the World in us will draw all people to Christ: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Our salt and light will make others thirsty for the truth of God and will draw them to the Light of the world.

A song called "Portrait" by a popular Christian musician, Phil Keaggy, perfectly illustrates this point. It is from an old poem entitled "Indwelt."

"Portrait"
"Not only in the words you say,
Not only in your deeds confessed,
But in the most unconscious way is Christ expressed.
Is it a beatific smile?
A holy light upon your brow?
Oh no, I felt His presence when you laughed just now.
To me, it was not the truth you taught,
To you so clear, but to me so dim.
But when you came to me, you brought a sense of Him.
And from your eyes, He beckons me,
And from your lips, His love is shed
Until I lose sight of you and see Christ instead.
Is it a beatific smile?
A holy light upon your brow?
Oh no, I felt His presence when you laughed just now."

After reading Christ's words, what are the dangers of being a secret disciple and hiding our light or works?