



Christ Be Our LIGHT

Prior to the gathering, ask participants to bring a candle to be used during the service and then shared.

LEADER

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water. God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light. God was pleased with what he saw. He then separated the light from the darkness. Genesis 1 -4

A candle is a small thing.....

yet it has the power to dispel darkness.

A candle is a simple thing.....

but its warmth can kindle weary hearts

and numbed spirits to new resolve.

Thus it is the candle that is our symbol during this time of year
of shorter days and longer nights.

As we look into the New Year we ask for light and direction

for our self and

to be light in the world for others.

Light the candles that are present in the room!

SING CHORUS FROM: Christ Be Our Light (Entire song/music on YouTube)

Christ be our light

Shine in our hearts

Shine through our darkness
Christ be our light
Shine in Your church
As we gather today.

1st READING – Jeremiah 6: 16

The Lord said to His people, “Stand at the cross roads and look, ask for the ancient paths; which was the good way? Take it and you will find rest for yourself.”

LEADER: Our life is a journey. We are always on a path. At times during the past year, especially at the beginning of a new year, it may be good of us to evaluate our road maps of life. We gain wisdom by looking at the places in our hearts where we have traveled during the past year.

- What places have blessed you?, affirmed you?, enlivened you?, and enriched you?
- What situations challenged you?, tested you?, discouraged you?

PAUSE and REFLECT

LEADER: Once we reflect on our past travels, we need to examine our present situation that will take us into our future?

- What are your current resources?
- What do you need to refuel?
- Are you prepared to remain on the same path or choose another path?
- Are we prepared to meet others on our road?.....to listen, learn and help them?

SING CHORUS: Christ Be Our Light, etc.

SHARE WITH THE GROUP - Time determined by the Leader/Group

2nd READING – Matthew 5:14 – 16

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill top cannot be hidden. No one lights a light to put it under a basket; they put it on the lamp stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of all people, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your father in heaven.

All Participants Select a Candle and Raise It Up

BLESSING – Pray together or alternate phrases

May the light of Christ direct and guide me in the days to come, transforming my inner vision to see clearly my own journey with all humankind as a journey of hope and bondedness (Nm 24:15-17).

May God be someone to lean on in my weak or painful moments. May I know God as my rock, my shelter, my strength, my wing of comfort and support (Ps.94:18).

May I be aware of all the places my feet will carry me during the year. May I know “how beautiful are the feet of the messenger of good news” (Rom10:15).

May I not be afraid of the questions that may press upon my mind and heart. May I welcome the questions and wait patiently for the day when they will have their answers (Mt 11:3).

May I be the one with a welcome in my smile and hello etched upon my hand, the hand I extend to everyone who blesses me with their presence (Lk 7:36-50).

May I have a reverence for all of creation. May I face bravely and enthusiastically the responsibility to preserve and care for the beauty of Earth (Sir 42:15 - 43:33).

May the wellsprings of compassion flow deep within me until I can taste the tears of my sisters and brothers (2 Cor 1:3-7).

May I awake each morning with thank you on my lips and in my heart, recognizing that all is gift, that all is blessing (Ps 138:1).

May my friendship with God be strong and healthy. May that love be both a comfort and a challenge as I struggle to continue to find my way along my personal path (Jn 21:15-19).

May my spirit be open and perceptive in discovering the will of God. May my prayer be that of wisdom, guidance, and a deep understanding of God's way for me (Lk 1:26-38).

May my life always be a living legacy to my God!

(Adapted from: May I Have This Dance, by Joyce Rupp)

SING CHORUS: Christ Be Our Light

Extinguish the candles and offer each other a sign of love and peace.