

Reader 5: Reading from the ambo

Look now at the darkness.

It has been lit by one single flame.

It has been illuminated by the Light of the World,

by Christ, by a flame of security and warmth

- that will never be extinguished.

Can you bring yourself to share the light?

Could you take this light to yourself and to others?

The world needs the light of Christ and

Christ needs you to bear it for Him....

Helpers will walk through the church lighting everybody's candle.

Reader 6:

One night, when he was old,

John Ruskin, the 19th century British writer,

Was sitting, with a friend, in front of his window in his home.

He was staring out into the night

Across town to a distant hillside street.

There the flaming torch of the town lamplighter

Was lighting street lamp after street lamp.

Because of the darkness

You could not see the lamplighter himself.

All you could see was his torch

And the trail of lights he left behind him.

After a few minutes Ruskin turned to his friend and said:

"That illustrates what I mean by a genuine Christian.

You may not know him or her or ever see them,

But their way has been marked

By the lights that person has left burning."

Meditation – The Light of Christ



St Paul's Church
19th December 2017

The church lights are on, and helpers will walk through the church lighting everybody's candle.

Reader 1:

I have heard you; I am sorry for you.
I have long been watching your closed shutters;
Open them, my light will come in.

I have long been standing at your locked door;
Open it you will find me on the threshold.
I am waiting for you, the others are waiting for you,
But you must be open, you must come out.

Why choose to be a prisoner of yourself.
You are free.
It is not I who locked the door;
It is not I who can open it.
It is you from the inside,
Why persist in keeping it solidly barred.

- from Prayers of Life, Michel Quoist

Reader 2:

The Light which is you and I, and which we bear,
does two things in the darkness about us.
It gives us a sense of security
and for someone looking in from the darkness,
gives that person a sense of warmth.

When we sin, we bring on the darkness.
We turn ourselves off.
We blow ourselves out.
We refuse to light the world through
our relationship with Christ.
We lose our sense of security.
And the onlooker is left in the hopeless,
cold darkness of a world
without the warmth of Christ.

The main lights are turned off, your candles should remain lit.

Take time to reflect.
Have you ever turned away from someone?
Have you ever blown your light out?
Have you ever refused to light the darkness
of someone's loneliness?
of someone's anxiety?
of someone's need?
of someone's asking for forgiveness?

When a time or person comes to mind, blow out your candle.

Reader 4: Feel the darkness ...

When all candles are extinguished, and after a brief period of
about a minute, a helper will light the Paschal candle ...