

Pastoral Prayer – Light
By Sharon Nearhoof May

Creating God, in the beginning, the first thing you created was light. Before anything or anyone came into existence, you filled the universe with light. We have the sun to fill our days, the moon to share our nights, the vast spectacle of the stars to remind us of your glory and your impossible greatness. We watch the colors of the sunrise and the brilliance of the sunset as all creation sings your praise. And as if the world did not contain enough light, you came to live within it – you came and laid your head under a humble roof. You came and walked dusty roads and got thirsty and went swimming and laughed and prayed and dreamed at night. You loved so hard you cried. You lost so hard you cried. You lived with such burning passion among us that when we think of Light, we think of you.

God, you still shine among us. You still burn within us. You still shed light into the world and onto our paths even now. We give thanks that you still live among us – that we do serve a Living God, one who can help us put our lives back together when we've gotten them all broken apart, one who can help us find the path of healing and love when we have been hurt, one who can give us the courage to make amends and find a better way to live when we have been the one causing the brokenness and hurt.

We want to take a moment this morning to pray for those who have special need of your light and your love this morning...for...

We also want to take a moment to give thanks for moments of great joy and light among us....for....

God, we pray that your light would always shine upon us, that your light would always appear before us to lead us out of the darkness, that your light would always burn within us so that we might shed light on the path for others to follow with us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.