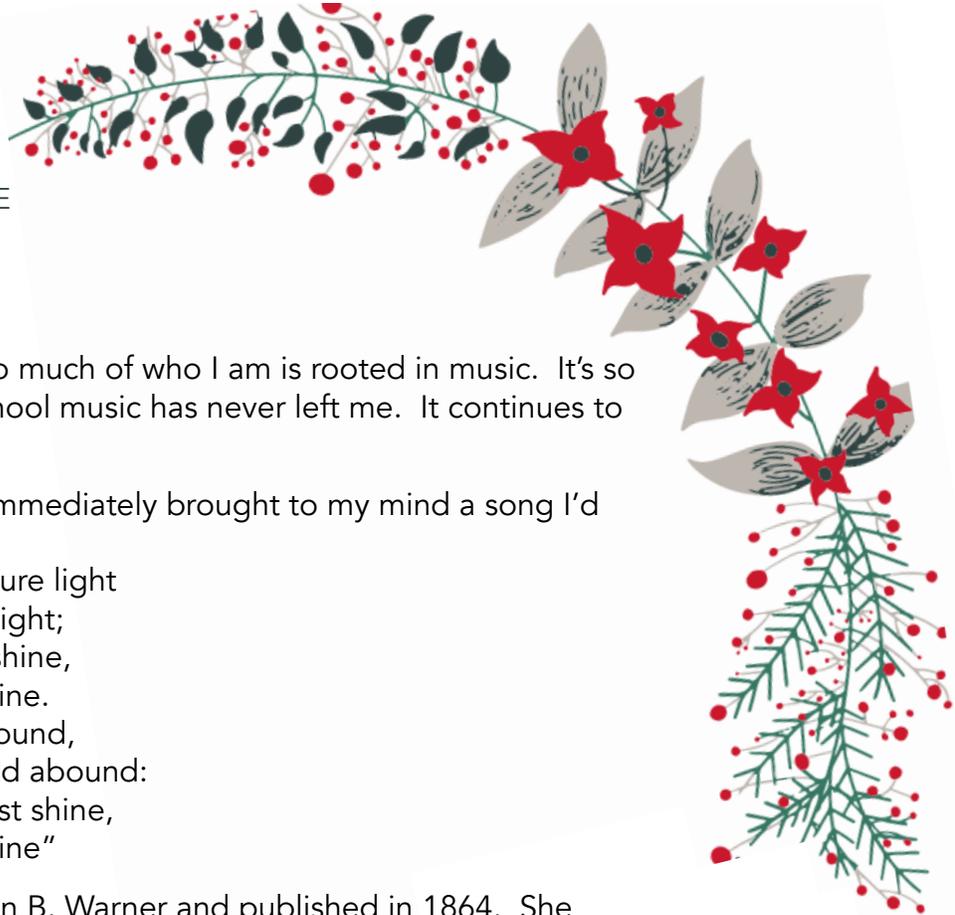


# ADVENT DEVOTIONAL HOPE IN A TIME OF COVID

## A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

MATTHEW 5:16

IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT  
SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, SO THAT THEY  
MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE  
GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.



Anyone who knows me well knows that so much of who I am is rooted in music. It's so amazing to me that my 1950s Sunday School music has never left me. It continues to comfort me and teach me all the time.

The theme of "A Light in the Darkness" immediately brought to my mind a song I'd forgotten, or so I thought:

"Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light  
Like a little candle burning in the night;  
In this world of darkness we must shine,  
You in your small corner and I in mine.  
Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around,  
Many kinds of darkness in this world abound:  
Sin, and want, and sorrow - we must shine,  
You in your small corner and I in mine"

These special words were written by Susan B. Warner and published in 1864. She used Matthew 5:16 as her inspiration. Obviously, the message of the hymn is relevant today, 156 years later! The word "bids" means commands or orders (someone) to do something. In this hymn, Jesus commands us or orders us to shine in this world of darkness. I love the mental image that these words bring to my mind. It's clear, don't you think?



2100 Riverview Drive  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
(320) 632-6667  
[firstserv@flclittlefalls.org](mailto:firstserv@flclittlefalls.org)  
[www.flclittlefalls.org](http://www.flclittlefalls.org)

HEAVENLY FATHER,  
HELP US TO BE LIGHT IN THE  
DARKNESS, AS YOU HAVE ORDERED.  
GIVE US THE STRENGTH WE NEED TO  
OBEY YOUR COMMAND AND THE  
KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO BE LIGHT  
ALWAYS.  
AMEN.