

Sunday, April 5

The Light of the World

by Pastor Hank

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 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. Matthew 5:14-16.

The community of faith celebrates Jesus as the Light of the World, but *Jesus celebrates people of faith* as “the light of the world.” Wow! It is profoundly humbling to be called by Jesus what the church calls him—the light of the world.

Our world needs “light.” There is much darkness around—violence of one sort or another and the suffering that comes from violence of one sort or another. You don’t have to be a Mother Teresa or a Dorothy Day or a Martin Luther King Jr. to bring light into that darkness. Every act—no matter how small—of kindness, compassion, gentleness, mercy lights up the darkness with love. As Mother Teresa once noted, we may not all do great things but we can all do small things with great love. Love is the true light, which the darkness of violence cannot overcome.

It might seem a little silly for grownups, but anytime is a good time for all of us to sing that old children’s song from Sunday School:

This little light of mine,
I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No!
I’m gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I’m gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine,
Let it shine,
Let it shine.

Sing along and watch the world grow brighter.

Prayer: God, set me on fire with love and let me shine, shine, shine. Amen.