

Children and family talk for 15th November 2020.

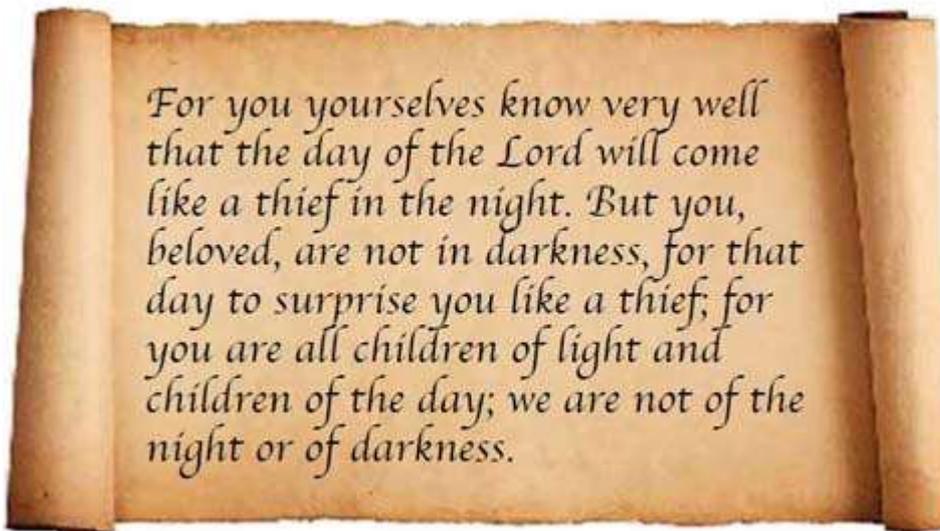
Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.
Let's begin by talking to God:

*Lord God, we come to you now to learn about you, to listen to your words and to worship you.
Help us to put aside our other thoughts and to be with you now.
Amen*

I have a couple of items to show you now, here is a reflective strip and here is a glow in the dark cup. I will try to make it dark so that you can see. So, the reflective strip reflects light back when I shine my torch onto it, and it helps people to see it in the dark. But once there is nothing shining onto it, you can no longer see it in the dark.

The cup, however, has a special property, so that it absorbs light and can shine back out later. So, one lets light bounce off its surface, no light, no shine, and the other takes light inside and keeps shining after the original light has gone. Let's listen out for more about this in our worship.

Our Bible reading today is from Thessalonians, Chapter 5, verses 2, and 4-5



Let's praise God now as we sing: (get ready to do some marching!).

Let The Flame Burn Brighter (We'll walk the land)

SOF 583 MP 743

We'll walk the land
With hearts on fire
And every step will be a prayer
Hope is rising
New day dawning
Sound of singing
Fills the air

Two thousand years
And still the flame
Is burning bright
Across the land
Hearts are waiting
Longing, aching
For awakening
Once again

*Let the flame burn brighter
In the heart of the darkness
Turning night to glorious day
Let the song grow louder
As our love grows stronger
Let it shine, let it shine*

We'll walk for truth
Speak out for love
In Jesus' name
We shall be strong
To lift the fallen
To save the children
To fill the nation
With your song

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Let's talk some more about the bible reading:

What do you think it means to be called 'children of light'?

Let's go back to what we were talking about earlier, the reflective strip and the glow in the dark cup. I wonder which best describes us – bright and shiny, but only when things are 'light' and going well; or radiating light wherever we are because the light is held inside us, ready to shine in light and dark places alike? When the writer was speaking of 'children of light' he didn't mean children as we think, but of everyone who still has a lot to learn, so that's us adults too. We can all absorb what God is saying and become a light in the darkness for others, as we shine out and show by our actions what it means to belong to God.

Do you feel differently about things when it's dark – or when it's light?

Most people don't like to be in the dark, where they can't see where they are going, what is in front of them, and they can't see to avoid obstacles. But when its light we are able to avoid obstacles in our path and find our way more easily.

How can you be a child of the light this week? Think about ways you can shine out this week and be a light for others to follow.

Praying together

Dear God, help us to be the light in dark places this week. Amen.

Let's all do the Grace together, follow me for the actions

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The children's sheet from Roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/21521/issue-110-all-childrens-sheets.pdf>