

## People of the Light

Christmas is really “our” story – the story for people who’ve struggled with brokenness and addiction and all their painful circumstances. Long before Jesus was born, the purpose of His coming was foretold, **“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.”** (From Isaiah 9) Just before Jesus was born, this was said about Him, **“... because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven, to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”** (From Luke 1) Then when Jesus spoke of Himself he described Himself in this way, **“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

We are the people who have walked in darkness. We are the people who have longed for peace. We are the people to whom God sent Jesus.

One of the wonderful features of the Christmas story is that it is the story of the ordinary people and the extraordinary way God reaches out to them

The angels came to the “plain folk” of the day, the shepherds, and shared God’s good news with them. The shepherds were poor. They didn’t have great clothes or wonderful houses in which to live. They were the common labourers of their time doing the work in society that others didn’t want to do. They were people with no influence in their society. They were nobody. Yet it was to these people that God sent an angel the night Jesus was born to tell them **“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”** (From Luke 2) They were the ones who were given the task of finding the baby and then telling others what they had seen and heard.

People often feel overwhelmed by the money, power, and plans of others. Particularly at Christmas it seems there’s great pressure because we “can’t afford” to do what others are doing – whether it is gifts or parties.

Christmas is for everyone, but especially for those who feel little, who feel poor, who feel vulnerable. It’s to US that Jesus is born. “Unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given.” (From Isaiah 9) Into our ordinary lives Jesus comes and says, “I have good news for you. Do not be afraid. Your life can influence your world in amazing and wonderful ways. You don’t have to be rich. You don’t have to be a “pretty one.” You don’t have to be a person with a powerful place of influence.