

## **The Light of the World**

In this week's gospel text Jesus calls himself "the light of the world" (John 9:5). Think about how light works in contrast to darkness. In a completely dark room, the darkness is overwhelming. It seems permanent, real and solid. It seems to almost have a weight to it—closing in around us and smothering us.

Then flip on your flashlight. The darkness is revealed for what it is: nothing. Darkness is simply the absence of light. The darkness is overcome, conquered and destroyed by the light. The challenge of shining a flashlight around in a dark room is that it can't shine everywhere at once. A light from above, positioned on the ceiling is best for that task. Use your flashlight to find the light switch and turn on the light in the ceiling and all darkness will be gone from the room.

What kind of light does Jesus say he is? Is he only the light of those who use him as their light—like a flashlight? No, he is the light from above that fills all things. The light of Jesus fills the whole world, but somehow we still find ourselves experiencing darkness. As John points out in his article, we often prefer the darkness that makes us feel better than others over the light that shows we are all part of the world of Jesus. As Tim says, this light is for the living of life but part of our fallen nature is still running towards death and darkness. Why? Too often we choose blindness, closing our eyes to his light. That's a good reason for Lent—a time for us to let Jesus open our eyes a little wider to take in a bit more of his light, the light that is shining all around us.

*~ Jonathan Stepp*