**God as Light. Trinity 2 2019-06-24**

**In the name of the +Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Today’s three readings all focus on one thing ... our intent for today.

God ... as Light.

The Christian church is full of this light bit. So what’s it really mean. God ... as Light. Why light ? Why not ... say ... Love ? Well, actually, it’s cos that’s the subject for two weeks time ... God as Love. In the meantime, next week, God as the Ruler of Angels, and then ... God as Peace. Four concepts of God ... Light, Love, Angelic and Peace. And later ... we’ll do Truth. Which is kinda the same as Light.

This makes it hard for us as priests to actually stick precisely to the subject cos when we try to write sermons for consecutive weeks, we find ourselves overlapping with previous and future weeks. But you can vary it. So ... what are your thoughts ? Who wants a go at this?

With so much in our service earlier, we probably don’t need to spend too much more time on this ... but let’s think on some practical ways we see the concept of God as Light in our world.

Let’s start with right here, at St Michaels. While Fr Robert in years gone by would normally celebrate contra-populum, that is ... opposing ... or facing the people, Bp Richard would normally celebrate as we are expected to ... facing away from the people.

Not because we want to turn our backs on you ... but because the Christian church is so full of symbolism. And the symbol here is that, as the Christ of the Mass, the celebrant is taking on the role of the Good Shepherd ... and leading all of you ... Christ’s flock ... into the light. You see ... our church is aligned so it faces the east ...

from whence comes the morning light. Indeed, all Sacramental churches are aligned this way if they can be.

*I am the Light of the world* ... said Jesus. So the celebrant leads you, Christ’s people ... into the Light. That purity of essence that we see each sunrise ... that truth that says ... here’s the glory of another wonderful day, with all its promises.

And so much more. Light and Truth in the Christian Church are often seen as terms which are somewhat interchangeable.

But what IS the light ? Is it just daylight .... morning ? No ... not entirely. Think back to the season of Epiphany ... Epiphany ... that light-bulb moment. Kinda like Eureka … I have found it.

But whose Epiphany was it it ? Certainly not the Christ-child. He wasn’t even IN nappies then ... let alone out of them. No ... the Epiphany ... that light-bulb moment ... is ours. When the light comes into our lives, as it did to the Magi, floods into our hearts, and illuminates the darkest of corners, and over-shadows all of them.

And it’s the same as the concept of the Second Coming of Christ ... as Jesus Himself said to the Pharisee as we read in Luke 17 v 21 ... No ... you will not see the coming of the kingdom as you would other things, so you will not say ... here it is ... or ... it is over there ... for it is among you now. There’s no fanfare and chariots of fire and all that drama ... and battle scenes and violence as written in Revelations ... no ... cos the Kingdom of Heaven ... is within you ... each and every one of us ... right now.

The second coming is within all of us ... for we were all in the darkness ... but now we too ... can walk in the light ... not so much a blazing source of light as we see it ... but as we let it transform us enlightening our innermost, with its Wisdom ...

this gnosis, this knowledge, this understanding, this partnership with God and his Son, Jesus, the Christ.

As Jesus said ... we had Ten Commandments ... now I give you just two. Love God, love your neighbour. That’s it. Do those two things, and you fulfil all the rest. And we can all think of a prominent sportsman who seems to have missed the whole point. He’s not yet had his epiphany ... though he thinks he has.

The Epiphany, just like the second coming ... belongs wholly and completely to each of us, cos Jesus Himself never left us. Yes, He may have in a physical sense, as we record the Ascension ... but He has never left us in a spiritual sense ... nor will he. For Lo ... He says ... *for Lo ... I am with you alway, even unto the end of the Age*. No point in looking for a second coming ... cos He never left us in the first place.

As we say in our First Ray Benediction ... at the very end of our Service ... And may the holy ones, whose pupils you aspire to become ... show you the Light you seek. Show you the Light you seek. The Light ... the Truths ... that which will illuminate you !

That’s why we are all here ... isn’t it ? To gain that glimpse of the gnosis, the knowledge, the Light ... It’s ours ... ours anytime, and it happens when the Christ ... that universal cosmic power that pervades everything .... when that power explodes in your heart ... then you will experience your own Epiphany, and you will see ... you will understand ... God as Light.

And now to +God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, three persons in One god, be ascribed all honour, might majesty power and dominion, now henceforth and forever more.