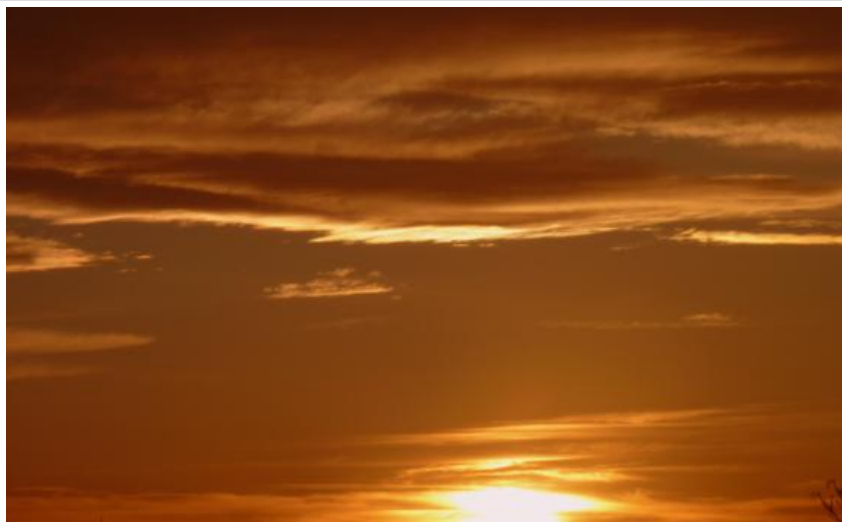


# Advent: 18th Dec - God's sunrise will break in upon us

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*Photograph by Mags Bryan*

'In the Celtic traditions redemption is about light being liberated from the heart of creation and from the essence of who we are. It has not been overcome by darkness. Rather the light is held in terrible bondages within us waiting to be set free.' Philip Newell

## Opening Prayer

Christ, You who are the Light of the World,  
Help us to radiate the warmth of your presence.  
Enable us to give of ourselves generously and compassionately  
In bringing joy, peace, and hope to others.

## The Story continues...

*Luke 1: 67-75 then 1:76-80...*

And you, my child, "Prophet of the Highest,"  
will go ahead of the Master to prepare his ways,  
Present the offer of salvation to his people,  
the forgiveness of their sins.

Through the heartfelt mercies of our God,  
God's Sunrise will break in upon us,  
Shining on those in the darkness,  
those sitting in the shadow of death,  
Then showing us the way, one foot at a time,  
down the path of peace.

The child grew up, healthy and spirited. He lived out in the desert until the day he made his prophetic debut in Israel.

## Reflection

God's heartfelt mercy is to make it possible for light and peace to break into our darkness. We are not suddenly lifted out of the darkness and dropped into light but if we choose to notice, hear or see, we will be, on a daily basis, shown the path of peace and light in the midst of darkness.

## Exercise

- Have you experienced the 'path of peace' today? Then perhaps you could share that with someone.
- Perhaps you feel that you are sitting in the shadows of darkness? You may want to light a tea light and invite the light of the world to accompany you at this time.
- Jesus, who is our peace, (Ephes. 2:14) You might want to take the opportunity to be still and give thanks for peace in a particular situation.

## Closing Blessing

May the light of God's presence bathe you in love and grace.

May the peace of God's presence calm the fears and concerns of the day.

And may you know the comfort of God's presence in all your coming and going this day. Amen

Mags Bryan