

# Arise, Shine, For Your Light Is Come

Words & Music by Eric Glass

Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the people,  
But the LORD shall arise upon you and his glory shall be seen upon you.

## Refrain

**Arise, shine, for your light is come,  
and the glory of the Lord is risen.  
O arise, Shine, for your light is come,  
and the glory of the LORD is upon you.**

The nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.  
And they shall call you The city of the Lord,  
O Zion of the Holy One of Israel.



Lift up your eyes 'round about and see:  
All gather themselves together; and  
They shall come, your sons from afar, and your daughters  
shall be carried at your side.

Then you shall see and be filled with joy, and your  
heart shall thrill with rejoicing.  
The abundance of the sea will be brought unto you, and the  
wealth of the nations unto you.

The sun shall no more be your light by day,  
nor moon your light by night,  
for the Lord shall be your everlasting light,  
and the days of your mourning shall be ended.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

# Old Orchard Church

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2013 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

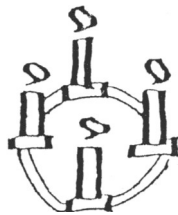
## Special Children's Worship

### The Celebration of Jesus Christ: Your Light Has Come

God had always been with his people.  
But in the incarnation of the eternal Son  
God is with his people that he might be like them!  
And to what end?  
In the words of one of the ancients:

*In his unbounded love,  
God became what we are,  
That he might make us what he is.*

Blessed be the God of heaven and earth who sent Christ,  
that in due time we might share the Divine Nature,  
and even now, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
pass from one degree of glory to another!



### Today's Scripture

New Testament Lesson: Luke 2:1-7, Luke 2:8-20

### An Advent Meditation

“Arise, O Shine, For Your Light Has Come”

Isaiah 60:1-5

*Mark Robertson, associate pastor, preaching*

## Radiant Beams Through the Silent Night

Recently on our annual youth retreat, the youth group and I looked up at the stars on a clear night. We walked away from our cabin towards the lake where we could get the clearest picture of the sky. For minutes we watched not only as bright stars, thousands of them, burst through the darkness; they glowed and bounced and illuminated what would have been stifling darkness. We then read from God's Word passages about how our light has come in the person of Jesus, culminating in Revelation 22, the last chapter in the Bible, which gives us these words from our Lord: “I am the root and descendant of David, the bright morning star” (v.18). We read earlier in this chapter that in the new heavens and new earth that “night will be no more; they will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever” (v.4).

Children give us the best testimony of the danger of darkness, for they rightly know that it is not the way the world should be. A good world is filled with light, and despite whatever dark elements that penetrate God's good creation, God's light is stronger, and it breaks through even the darkest of nights. In the third verse of the song “Silent Night” we are reminded that the Son of God, love's pure light, will be the radiant beam that outshines the darkness. And after the night comes the dawn, and this true light, which enlightens everyone (Jn. 1:9), would be the dawn of redeeming grace. That though while we were filled darkness, God's light now not only shines upon us, but *through* us. The prophet Isaiah writes of this radiance as he describes the coming of the Anointed Conqueror, the light who is to come into the world. And he writes, “Then *you* shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult” (Is. 60:5). We receive God's light, as we feel his mercy and love poured out upon us, but the great glory of the Incarnation is that we too shall be like him, which means we shine as God's light in the world, and we will one day be radiantly beautiful in holiness, just as he is. Psalm 34:5 says “Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.”

In the Christmas story, God's light shines amongst even the least of the inhabitants of the ancient world: to the shepherds, to Mary and Joseph, and to the wise men, Gentiles, coming from afar. We are to be the light that shines in Zion, the church, through which the light of Christ goes to every corner of the globe. There are many practical ways for this to be down around this holiday season: a helpful hand to a neighbor, serving the poor, opening your home to friends, or praying for that missionary in a far-away land. For though we may be weary, we may be discouraged, our light has come; and we carry now this light, and no darkness will overcome it.



—Mark Robertson