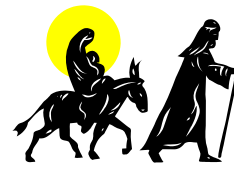




## *2021 Walk to Bethlehem*



### *WEEK 9 Meditation*

## *The LIGHT of the World – Part II*

*“I am the light of the world.*

*Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

*John 8:12*

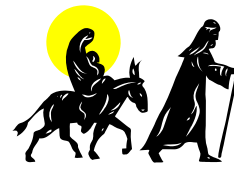


*Holman Hunt’s “Light of the World”*

The highlight of my first visit to St. Paul’s Cathedral in London was Holman Hunt’s magnificent painting entitled, “The Light of the World.” It caught me by surprise the first time because it didn’t seem to be located in a prominent place in the church. I turned a corner, and there it was! The painting is entitled “The Light of the World,” but it is rather dark. Jesus is in the shadows, carrying a lamp. His face is lit and He is knocking on a door overgrown with vines. The door has no handle. It must be opened from the inside. The only light comes from the lantern that Jesus carries. The painting is very compelling. Holman Hunt painted this in 1853 and many came to faith in Christ as a result of viewing this painting.



## ***2021 Walk to Bethlehem***



When I visited London the following year, I was determined to return to St. Paul's Cathedral just to see "The Light of the World." I remembered the exact spot where it had surprised me but to my disappointment, it wasn't there! A friendly docent with a sparkle in his eye explained that because of the renovation of the Cathedral, "The Light of the World" had been moved. He said with excitement that he would take me to "The Light of the World." We walked briskly through narrow passageways and turned many corners. As I followed him, I hoped that "The Light of the World" was in a good place and not in a dingy storage area in the basement. Finally after many turns, the docent stopped. He said to me with delightful reverence, "Now I'm going to leave you. When you turn this corner, you will see 'The Light of the World.' Go spend some time with the 'Light of the World.'"

Go spend time with the "Light of the World." What a remarkable charge this docent gave me! What a remarkable challenge! I turned the corner and was overwhelmed with the magnitude of not merely the painting, but the presence of Christ. The Light truly does shine in the darkness!

***The following video gives us pictures of nature in all of its colorful beauty to appreciate as our daily light diminishes each day and before the winter darkness envelops us.***

***See the video link below. [Place your mouse over the link words and hit the "Ctrl" key and click your mouse.]***

***[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhQ0\\_XMUtvQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhQ0_XMUtvQ)***

***Ponder these questions this week and please send your thoughts (and any pictures) to: [stpaulwtb@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulwtb@gmail.com)***

**Questions to ponder:**

- 1. How dark is our world without the Light of the World?***
- 2. What is the brightest place you have ever been?***
- 3. Does physical brightness and darkness affect your mood?***
- 4. What prevents us from opening the door and allowing the Light of Christ to enter in?***