**Friday 15th May**

Isaiah 60: 1 – 3

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
    and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth  
    and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
    and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
    and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Light has such a transformative effect! When the sun appears over the horizon a grey world is bathed in colour and warmth. It’s almost as though life returns. Jesus is the light of the world. He shines brighter than all other light sources!  His light brings colour, warmth and life. We need His presence, his light. And so we come to these extraordinary verses from the start of Isaiah 60. It speaks of a time when thick darkness covers all the people of the earth. I guess that we have seen just such a situation across the face of the earth in these days. Coronavirus has spread sickness, fear, darkness. And so, how critical it is that the people of God – those that have the light of life – over whom the glory of the Lord has arisen – shine with that light. The world-wide church has a mandate to shine that Jesus-light to transform the darkness! As we point people to Jesus, lifting Him up, representing Him well on the earth, so people will see just how good he is and his light is irresistible. Almost like moths gathering around a light bulb at night, or sunflowers turning their faces towards the sun, so people will be drawn to the light of Jesus. The season is beginning to change. We are starting to prepare for a new day when we have greater freedom to go out. We have seen the Lord moving in this land over the past few weeks. Now is not the time to hide that light away! Let’s pray that people will be drawn to the light of Jesus.

*Lord Jesus, light of the world, we thank you for the ways in which we have seen you dispel darkness in our own lives and in the lives of others. We pray today that you would push back the darkness of Coronavirus. We thank you so much that fewer new cases are being reported, and we pray that it would be totally extinguished. We continue to pray for your help and blessing for all those who are working in caring professions, looking after the sick and dying.  Would you shine your light on them today to give them courage, wisdom and energy. We pray for your people – for your church around the world. Lord we ask that you would set our hearts on fire with love for you and that we will shine with increasing brightness so that others see your goodness and are drawn to you. In your name. Amen*



Jesus is The Light Of the World