

## THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

Last week the sermon was on letting our light and love of God shine on others. I thought about this as I discovered the light above the stove had burned out and I could not see the stove top as well as I wanted to. It is not a large light, just a 40-watt bulb but it makes quite a difference when I am cooking. I changed the bulb but cannot get the shield back on, but I am working on that. You might ask how I am working on that. I plan on asking my son for help the next time he comes over. Now I am afraid to turn it on for fear something will splatter, and the hot bulb will burst and throw particles all over whatever I am cooking. As I said it is not a huge light but a small light and there are times in people's lives that a small light is what is needed. Never think your light isn't bright enough to make a difference in someone's life. I thought about all the times I had wanted to express my faith to others and had not spoken. I did not give them the light of God's love for fear of being too pushy, too in your face, or thought to be a religious zealot or worst of all not good enough. As a Nurse we were taught not to talk about our religion to our patients. When I worked Afternoons and Midnights, I would make rounds and go in their rooms and say a silent prayer to God for them as they slept, but never did I discuss my faith with them. I did often speak up with friends but sometimes wished my courage had given me more of a push when the opportunity arose. Rev. Gotham also spoke about serving and that we are called to serve. I believe he voiced it as, "Take off your bib and put on an apron!" I do serve but there are many things I did in years past that I no longer do but those "jobs" have been taken over by others even more capable than me. Things like the Prayer Quilting Ministry and the Prayer Shawl Ministry are in very capable hands that are much more talented than I am. I have had the joy of seeing others take charge and enhance things I have done and that has brought me joy. The jobs that I have loved such as ushering and communion go on without me and it gives me joy to see others blooming and growing with these tasks. Helping with funeral luncheons is something that I no longer do. When my husband became ill, I had to let go and I think that is part of God's plan to let others have the blessing of doing. There are three delightful women in our church who will come over and visit with me and have brought me food when they knew I was not doing well. Sometimes we go out to lunch. This week I went out to lunch with one of my favorite friends, it wasn't the ballpark but one of my other favorite places, a wonderful treat. Some days I feel surrounded by God's love when dear friends visit or in the phone calls, I receive from people asking about my health. I may not serve as I once did, but I am surrounded by a cloud of witnesses to God's love. Be that light in your world that shows others the love of Christ to a friend, a relative or even a stranger. I picture our church as being a lot of lights shining together. Some small, some larger, some plain and some trimmed with silver and gold. Like a Christmas tree one light does not make it bright but a lot of lights shining together make it a beautiful sight.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

2 Samuel 22:29 You are my lamp O Lord; The Lord turns my darkness into light.

Lord, we thank you for this day. May we be the light that draws others to you. Lord, we ask your blessings upon those who are ill and those who mourn. Be with them, may they feel your strength and love surrounding them. Be with our church Lord, light our path. Be with those who are suffering the horror of the earthquakes in Turkey and the war in the Ukraine and those suffering though lawlessness in Haiti. There is so much sadness and anger in our world Lord. May we be a beacon of light to those who seek your path. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and protect him. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them in their work. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson