

## Reclaiming The Light

*The Christian tradition has had a tendency to portray light as good and darkness as bad. But we do have many readings, particularly in the Old Testament which don't express darkness and light in this dualistic way. Darkness can be positive, darkness can be the place where God resides. And light can be gentle. So here, just as we elsewhere we reclaim the darkness, here we mirror this in reclaiming the light and celebrate God's presence in both the darkness and the light. This is meant to be use alongside the prayer Reclaiming the Darkness.*

Sunlight falls soft upon waking eyes  
gently caressing them back to life  
All the possibility of new day  
wrapped in the beauty of morning  
as the cobwebs of darkness  
are swept away.

**For darkness and light are as one**  
*to the God who tore them apart*

Glistening pinpricks of light  
break through dark nothingness  
bringing perspective and scale.  
A torch lights a country path  
The moon speaks gentle reassurance  
smiling into fearful corners.

**For darkness and light are as one**  
*to the God who tore them apart*

Judgement burns bright  
shining the light of justice onto  
human failings  
Tired eyes revel in  
shafts of bright creativity  
revealing activity.

**For darkness and light are as one**  
*to the God who tore them apart*

A coach trip to Blackpool to see the lights  
companionable darkness, backdrop to faded glamour  
Gunpowder-painted flashes of beauty  
crack with festive colour  
Pinpricks in night's black curtain remind us  
how fragile and small we are.

**For darkness and light are as one**  
*to the God who tore them apart*

Beneath the soil, a God-planted seed  
sends a shoot towards the glow  
pushing upwards towards  
the strengthening, greening rays

of spring sunshine  
transforming miracle.

*For darkness and light are as one  
to the God who tore them apart*

A star draws  
mysterious magi  
to a stable in obscurity  
A baby's innocence  
lights up the world  
and exposes its terror.

*For darkness and light are as one  
to the God who tore them apart*

For out of the darkness came the cry:  
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
And in afternoon light, a body was broken  
as earlier, candle-lit security  
He had predicted when breaking bread:  
This is my body, broken for you.

*For darkness and light are as one  
to the God who tore them apart*

*[Share bread]*

And the wine, fermented in darkness  
overflowing with sparkling festivity  
a celebration of the blood  
which was to stain the sun-parched earth  
at the foot of his cross:  
This is my blood, poured out for you.

*For darkness and light are as one  
to the God who tore them apart*

*[Share wine]*

So, here, in the fragile light  
of this beloved sanctuary  
we have shared in love's feast  
May the light in love's gentle caress  
infuse us and inspire us  
to light love's flame wherever we go.

*For darkness and light are as one  
to the God who tore them apart*

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