

## Let your little light shine

This Little Light Of Mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
This Little Light Of Mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
This Little Light Of Mine,  
Yes, I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

The light that shines is the light of love,  
Lights the darkness from above,  
It shines on you and it shines on me,  
And it shows what the light of love can do.  
I'm gonna shine my light both far and near,  
I'm gonna shine mine light bright and clear,  
Where there's a dark corner in this land  
I'm gonna let my little light shine.

Both of my children have a song, one that I sang to them right from the start. Right from knowing that I was pregnant, through carrying them, and it was the first thing they heard from me when they were born. With Tom it is 'Top of the World' by the Carpenters (my little Nanna's favourite song) ... with Emily it is 'let your little light shine' by the Seekers.

We welcomed Emily into the world on Saturday evening and as I finally held her after months of waiting, and sang her, her song as I looked into her face, I suddenly realised just how much we need that light in our lives at the moment, and just how important that light is going to be over the coming weeks and months.

It is the light of a smile, a text, an email, a picture, a face time ...

I have been so proud over the last few days, and felt so blessed, to be part of our community. The messages Steve and I have received, filled with love and light, the phone calls, the emails, have lightened our hearts through the darkness into which the world has been plunged. The offers of support, from shopping, nappies, wipes, to 'just checking you're ok!' and 'hope you're getting some sleep!' have been overwhelming and have filled us with light and hope and joy. We feel truly blessed.

And that is the beauty of light, isn't it? It shines 'both bright and clear and both far and near' and into 'every dark corner' and even though, with social distancing and self-isolation, we may not feel it's warmth in person, we know that it is there and that it can shine for miles and miles and lighten the heaviest of hearts and minds.

In John 1 v 15 we read 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it!' This darkness we are in has not overcome the light in our community, and as Christians we are blessed with God's light in our hearts and minds ... how now, at this dark time, can we make sure God's light, our light, still shines in the darkness? What can we do to bring light to others? What can we do to make sure that the darkness can never overcome it? **Alice Harvey**

This Hymn offers a suggestion and a prayer

*Christ be our light, shine in our hearts, shine in our darkness  
Christ be our light, shine in your church, gathered to-day*

## Longing for Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

*Chorus*

*Christ be our light, shine in our hearts  
Shine in our darkness  
Christ be our light, shine in your church  
Gathered to-day*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Chorus*

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.

*Chorus*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
Walls made of living stone.

*Chorus*

Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come.

*Chorus*

*© Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications*

*Administered in the UK by CALAMUS, Tel: 01842 819830*

*Reprinted with permission*

*Licence Number 09390*