



Email: manseltonurc@gmail.com.

Tel no. 01792 415222

Weekly Letter – 8 February 2026

Matthew 5:13-20

This Little Light of Mine...

... I'm going to let it shine!

Light dispels darkness. Light illuminates and makes doing things in dark places possible. We use the image of light to talk about insight, understanding and enlightenment. And Jesus, calls us the light of the world. There's a progression in these three verses about us being light. Firstly, we can be seen – a city on a hill cannot be hidden. For good or ill, the way we talk and behave will be seen as representative of what Christians are like. So, let's speak and act in ways that dispel darkness, allows life to flourish, and highlight God's love. Of course, Jesus says that's not about blowing our own trumpet, and that almsgiving should be secret, and God who sees in secret will give a reward (Matt 6:3-4).

Secondly, lamps aren't put under a basket but on a stand to give light to the whole house. We don't restrict our passing on the light, it is for all. It reflects what we learn from the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25) or Jesus' encounter with the Syro-Phoenician woman (Matt 15:21). That affects how we shine in conversations about immigration and overseas aid.

Thirdly, we are about giving glory to God, not getting praise for ourselves: 'that people may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:16). As a Church we have perhaps tended to rely on our good works to communicate God's love. It is a challenge for us to talk about our relationship with God as the motivation and power behind our actions in explaining why we do what we do.

In John's gospel, it is Jesus who is the 'light of the world' (8:12), the 'true light, which enlightens everyone' (1:8), so it's good to know that when our light is burning low, we can point others to the Christ light, and even if we are 'as dim as a Tallow lamp' we can still reflect his light. We pray that God's light will shine on us and through us.

Simon

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Dr Noel Davies
Bible Readings: Isaiah 58.1-10: Ephesians 2.10-19: Matthew 5.13-16.**

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Uniting Church, Sketty.

Ordination/Induction of Elders

We assure our Elders of our support and prayers. God Bless.

Tuesday 10th -Tea and Chat - 2-4pm – Logo game

LIGHT FOR THE BROKEN FAST

(Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 58.1-9a: Psalm 112.1-9: 1 Corinthians 2.1-12 (13-16): Matthew 5.13-20)

God of justice and mercy.

You call us to loose the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.

We do not come to you now with showy sacrifice

but with hearts ready to touch your truth. We have learned that the fast you desire
is not absence not presence, not ritual but restoration.

Let our lives be salt, preserving dignity.

Let our witness be light breaking through the world's gloom.

Let our hand reach out to the hungry, and our voices speak peace into violence.

May our faith not be stored on a shelf,

but scattered like seed in the world,

so that justice may bloom, and your glory rise like the dawn.

In the aching need of your people,

to the brokenness we often ignore,

may we touch you and be changed.

Dionne Gravesande

(URC Prayer Handbook 2026)