



PUSH BACK THE DARK NESS



HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

THE DARKNESS AROUND

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2023

Spend time this week reflecting on the following questions:

1) Write your own verse for *This Little Light of Mine*, that resonates with where you feel God is calling you to shine. Make it your anthem this week.

- Examples - “At lunch in the breakroom, I’m gonna let it shine.”, “When I walk my dog...”, “When I’m with my fa - mily...”
- Some of you may realize that maybe you aren’t actually positioned in your life very close to marginalized people that are in places of real darkness. If so, your verse might be, “Holy Spirit lead me, Show me where to shine!”

2) Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any prejudices that we might have that might hinder us from truly reflecting Christ’s Light of Love, purely and effectively?

3) Who do we need to see this week, that are in need of a little Love being shone on into their day?

4) What is one specific action that you can take to build a bridge, bringing light to someone or a system that is in, or perpetuating, darkness?



JESUS SPOKE TO THE PEOPLE ONCE MORE AND SAID, “I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. IF YOU FOLLOW ME, YOU WON’T HAVE TO WALK IN DARKNESS, BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE THE LIGHT THAT LEADS TO LIFE.”

John 8:12 NLT

A Blessing for When You're Tired of Broken Systems

- adapted from Kate C Bowler and Jessica Richie

Oh God, I am done with broken systems
that break the very people
they are meant to serve.

Harness this anger!
channel it into worthy action and show me
what is mine to fix and what boundaries to patrol
to keep goodness in and evil out.

God have mercy
Christ have mercy
Spirit have mercy

They have forsaken me, the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.
Jeremiah 2:13

God have mercy
Christ have mercy
Spirit have mercy

Blessed are we who are appalled
that brute ignorance can so easily dominate
over decency, honesty and integrity.

Blessed are we who choose not to look away
from systems that dehumanize, deceive, defame and distort.
We who recognize that thoughts and prayers are not enough.

Blessed are we who stand
with truth over expediency,
principle over politics,
community over competition.

Oh God, how blessed are we who cry out to you:
empower us to see and name what is broken,
what is ours to restore,
guide us to find coherent and beautiful alternatives
that foster life, hope and peace.
Help us to use our gifts with one another in unity.

Blessed are we who choose to bear the tension
of leaning into this vision
while living in the not yet.

In God all things hold together
Colossians 1:17

God have mercy
Christ have mercy
Spirit have mercy

God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33:27

Blessed are we who choose to live in anticipation,
our eyes scanning the horizon,
for signs of your kingdom-
heaven-come-down-
as we wait in hope
and act with courage.

Amen

