

Light and Darkness  
Pastor Keith Richard  
Immanuel, Belvidere

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
Isaiah 60:1

It can get downright dark and gloomy here in northern Illinois in January. The days are short, the temperatures drop, and it seems to be cloudy all the time. There is wind, ice, snow, and slush – everywhere! The cloud cover is so thick that you wonder if the sun is even still there.

Sometimes LIFE feels like northern Illinois in January.

Life in a broken and sinful world can in fact get very dark. The curse of sin means there will be sickness, heartache, and death. It means there will be pandemics, violence, lawlessness, and divisions in our world, our nation, and our families. Our own sinful nature contributes to the darkness when we give in to our selfish wants and desires. Darkness is the result of sin – The curse of sin over all of creation and the sin in our own hearts.

The darkness is never ok, is not normal, but it is very real.

It is easy to point the finger at others and blame them for the darkness, but even if everyone else in the world was “light” you and I would still have our own darkness to deal with. My sin blinds me to all that is good and right and holy. But that is when the Light breaks through the darkness, the gloom, the haze, and the fog of sin. Jesus is the Light of the world that breaks through the darkness. He is the Light that no darkness can overcome. In the Light we see our sin, but we also see our Savior! Your sin has been taken away in and through Jesus. Now you get to live – reflecting the Light of Jesus!