



M. Basilea Schlink

Christmas

*A Light Shines
in the Darkness*

Christmas—the festival of many lights. Christmas trees are decorated with lights, and small children, enraptured by their brightness, reach out for them in delight. They don't know yet that Christmas lights are only a symbol for Jesus, the Child in the Manger, who came down to this earth as the Light of the world. His light, God's Word tells us, shines especially on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death (Isaiah 9:2; Luke 1:79).

At Christmas the Child Jesus wants to come to us in this world of ever-growing darkness and chaos. He has come especially for those living in darkness. He wants to bring them light, which means joy. This is good news at a time when death is taking its toll the world over. Countries are ravaged by violence, conflict and war. Terrorists are a menace to humanity as they kill and destroy. With these forces rampant today, many live under threat of death.

Now it is Christmas again and time to celebrate the coming of Jesus. The Child in the Manger wants to make His home in us as the Light of the world. As the Eternal Light He has the power to overcome the darkness and dispel gloom, distress and despair. The Son of

God came to earth as the Eternal Light. Love is the source of His radiance. This is what gives brilliance to His light. This is why it breaks through the most profound darkness. Nothing can extinguish this light, not even extreme affliction. Jesus is a Sun that no darkness can eclipse. His light penetrates the darkness and transforms it.

The Child Jesus wants to do the same for us now. He knows why we feel downcast and dark inside.

Christmas tells us:

Let Jesus, the Child in the Manger, fill your thoughts. Look to Him for help. He has a solution to your problems and can turn your life around. You will experience for yourself that He is the Light of the world, who brings light to each one of us. He shines into our gloom, distress and sorrow, giving us victory.



Lord Jesus,

You have come as the Light. You are the Son of God, by whom all worlds were made. So You have the power to bring light into the darkness in me and in the world around me. I believe You can do it, for You are Love, and Your love is radiant. This love is stronger than all the hate and killing that is making our world such a dark place today.

You are stronger than all this. You are with me when I have to walk in darkness too. In Your love You will not fail to come to me, filling my heart with light and comfort. I trust You, knowing I will never be alone, because You are there.

Amen.

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For further reading

FATHER OF COMFORT, Daily Readings, 160 pages, by M. Basilea Schlink

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