

# All Age Worship Service

(AAW011)

**“I am the Light of the  
World”**

© Jane Hulme 2017

**ALL AGE WORSHIP**  
**RESOURCES.ORG**



## “I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

### Service Aim:

To unpack what Jesus meant when He said: *“I am the light of the world.”*

### Biblical Reference(s):

John 8:12, Exodus 13:21-22, Luke 18:35-43, Psalm 27:1, Matthew 28:40

### Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Light a large candle
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	Light is “good news.” Jesus said, “I am the light of the world”
Memory verse:	John 8:12 presentation using different lights
Link:	Jesus reminded the Jews of God being their light in the wilderness
Reading:	Exodus 13:21-22 with Power Point slides
Talk 1:	If we follow Jesus 1) He will lead us on the safe path through life
You Tube Song:	<u>“My lighthouse”</u> (Rend Collective)
Drama:	Dramatized healing of the blind man (Luke 18:35-43)
Talk 2:	If we follow Jesus we will 2) see things as they really are & not walk in darkness
Puppets:	“What if God shows up my sin?”
Confession:	Writing down sins and bringing them “into the light” (before a candle)
Songs:	<u>Song/s thanking Jesus for His forgiveness</u> (See Appendix 1)
Memory verse:	John 8:12
Talk 3:	If we follow Jesus, 3) “Immanuel” promises us His presence and will never leave us.
Candles:	Passing round candles as a reminder of Jesus presence with us
Songs:	<u>Song/s about Jesus’ presence</u> (See Appendix 1)
Memory Verse:	From memory
Prayers:	Using the refrain “You are the light of the world. Help us/them to follow You.”
Lord’s prayer	
Summary:	
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	

## Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

**Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.**

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

.....

## Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and explain to people that you will be looking at the second of Jesus' seven "I am" statements that are recorded in John's Gospel; "I am the light of the world."

## Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer or
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"<sup>1</sup> that the congregation can say together.
- Alternatively you could light a large candle at the front of church and say:

Jesus, light of the world,  
**We welcome You here today.**  
 Open our eyes to see You,  
**That we might worship and adore You.**  
**Amen.**

## Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

## Warm up:

The warm up involves presenting a few situations to people with the aim of showing that light is good news. You will need a small lamp, a torch and either a model lighthouse or a projected picture of a lighthouse. You might say something like:

I want you to imagine for a moment that you are fast asleep in your bed and suddenly you wake up in the middle of the night and it is pitch black.

- You are feeling rather frightened as you cannot see anything.
- Would this (*Hold up lamp*) be good news or bad news? (*Receive answers*)
- It would be good news wouldn't it, as you would be able to see things again.

Now imagine that you are walking through the woods and suddenly it has become really dark and you are struggling to see the path ahead.

- Would this (*Hold up torch*) be good news or bad news? (*Receive answers*)
- It would be good news wouldn't it as you would be able to see the path ahead.

And finally imagine that you are the captain of a ship out on the sea at night and that you need to avoid hitting the rocks as you come into shore.

- Would this (*Show lighthouse or picture of lighthouse*) be good news or bad news? (*Receive answers*)
- It would be good news wouldn't it as you would be able to see to avoid the rocks.

<sup>1</sup> Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603  
 © Jane Hulme 2017

In many different situations that we find ourselves in, we know that light is good news, because it makes it possible for us to see.

Jesus said something very interesting about himself. He said: *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)

- Jesus being the light of the world is good news for each one of us.
- During this service we are going to discover a little more about what that means.

### Memory Verse:

The memory verse is John 8:12. You could present it using different pictures of sources of light (eg torch, lamp, candle, lighthouse etc) with the words of the memory verse written next to them as follows:

Light 1: “I am  
 Light 2: the light of the world.  
 Light 3: Whoever follows me  
 Light 4: will never walk in darkness  
 Light 5: but will have the light of life”  
 Light 6: John chapter 8, verse 12

Let’s say the memory verse together a couple of times and then we will remove the light pictures one at a time and we will see whether you can remember it!

### Link:

When Jesus said to the Jewish people, *“I am the light of the world,”*

- the Rabbis or the teachers of the law would have heard Jesus claiming to be God.
- They knew that King David had said in one of his Psalms, *“The LORD is my **light** and my salvation—whom shall I fear?”* (Psalm 27:1)

When Jesus said to the Jewish people, *“I am the light of the world,”* they would also have been reminded that God had shown himself as light to their ancestors when they had wandered through the wilderness for 40 years.

- During that time God lead them through a pillar of cloud by day and through a pillar of fire by night.
- Listen to this.

### Reading:

The Bible reading is taken from Exodus 13:21-22 and can be read by a child, young person or adult from a modern version of the Bible. It would benefit from putting up Power Point images<sup>2</sup> to illustrate the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.

### Talk 1: 1) Jesus leads us on the safe path through life

For this talk you will need the visual aid of a model lighthouse or a picture of a lighthouse.

So when Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life....”*

- the people would have heard Jesus claiming to be the God who kept their ancestors safe from the dangers in the wilderness.

<sup>2</sup> You can find free Power Point images of the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire here:

<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-red-sea/>

© Jane Hulme 2017

You can imagine that wandering around the wilderness in the dark would have been very dangerous.

- There would have been all sorts of physical dangers like deadly insects and dangerous animals.
- The pillar of fire at night especially helped people to keep on the safe path.

But Jesus didn't come to keep us safe from the physical dangers of deadly insects and animals.

- Jesus came to lead us on the safe path through life;
- the path that one day will lead us to being with Him in heaven,
- the path that avoids the spiritual danger of being separated from Father God for all eternity....

So the first thing we can say is that if we follow Jesus, the light of the world, He will lead us on the safe path through life,

- a bit like the lighthouse we mentioned earlier that keeps ships on the safe path.  
(Hold up your lighthouse and place it somewhere where it can be seen for the rest of the service)
- Watch this:

### **You Tube Song:**

The You Tube song<sup>3</sup> is: "My lighthouse" by Rend Collective. Alternatively you could sing a song at this point in the service.

### **Drama:**

The drama is the dramatized healing of the blind man found in Luke 18:35-43 and can be found in Appendix 2. You may want to precede this drama by saying something like:

Jesus, the light of the world said that if we follow Him, we will have the light of life;

- in other words He will keep us on the safe path through life.

Jesus also said that whoever follows him will never walk in darkness.

It is very hard to find your way in the dark isn't it?

- Can you imagine how hard it must be for blind people to find their way around?
- One day Jesus, the light of the world met a blind man. Let's see what happened.

### **Talk 2: 2) Jesus helps us see things as they really are so that we are not walking in darkness**

For this talk you will need the visual aid of a lamp.

When the blind man met Jesus, the light of the world, Jesus made it possible for the blind man to see.

- Imagine what it must have been like for him to see the sun and the sky for the first time.
- Imagine what it must have been like for him to see Jesus.
- It must have been like being in a dark room then suddenly someone putting on the lights. (Hold up your lamp and switch it on. Then place it somewhere where it can be seen for the rest of the service)

<sup>3</sup> You can find the song "My lighthouse" by Rend Collective on You Tube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) by putting "My lighthouse Rend Collective" into the search bar. The lyrics version of the song may help people as they listen  
© Jane Hulme 2017

The blind man's life was totally changed....no longer did he have to walk in darkness,

- Everything changed because he could now see and walk in the light.

Jesus is the One who helps us to see too.

- Most of us are not physically blind like the man in our Bible story, but we are all spiritually blind and walking in darkness until Jesus opens our spiritual eyes.

When Jesus opens our spiritual eyes, we are able to see God as He really is;

- His goodness, His love, His holiness and His beauty.

When Jesus opens our spiritual eyes, we are able to see the darkness of the sin that we often choose to walk in;

- the darkness of greed, lies, selfishness, jealousy, bad temper and other sins.

If we choose to follow Jesus, His promise to us is that we will never walk in darkness.

- We will see things as they really are.
- But sometimes if we are honest, we may prefer to walk in darkness. Let's see what James is up to:

### **Puppets:**

The puppet script is called, "What if God shows up my sin?" (see Appendix 3). This script works with a boy puppet "James"<sup>4</sup> and an older man puppet "Grandad." The aim of the puppet script is to demonstrate that like James, we can sometimes hide from God when we sin.

If you don't have puppets, the script could be re-written as a drama between a child and their grandparent.

### **Confession:**

This talk needs everyone to have the prayer printed out (from Appendix 4) and a pen/pencil. You may like to place a silver aluminium tray at the foot of the large candle you lit at the beginning of the service. Say something like:

Let's ask Jesus now to show us our sins so that we can confess them to Him and be set free from them.

- Please take the prayer that you were given earlier and let's pray it together saying:

**In the light of your presence Jesus,  
show us the sins we need to confess to You  
and turn away from.  
Amen.**

And now let's listen to what Jesus shows us.....

- As he reminds you of sins that you need to confess, write them on your paper or draw them on your paper.
- This is just between you and God.
- You won't be asked to show your paper to anyone.....PAUSE

<sup>4</sup> You can purchase both a boy and a Grandad puppet from [www.onewayuk.com](http://www.onewayuk.com)

Let's pray together:

**Lord we confess that we have sinned against You,  
in the things that we have thought, said and done.  
We are really sorry and turn away from these sins.  
Please forgive us and set us free to walk in the light.  
Amen.**

Fold your paper in half then come and lay it on the tray, which is in the light, as a way of saying that you have brought your sins into the light of Christ, and therefore you are forgiven.

- All the pieces of paper will be destroyed after the service.....no one is going to read them!

### **Songs:**

Song/s thanking Jesus for His forgiveness as per Appendix 1

### **Memory verse:**

Repeat the memory verse John 8:12 as before.

### **Talk 3: 3) Jesus promises that He will never leave us**

For this talk you will need the visual aid of a candle

So far we have discovered that Jesus, the light of the world will:

- 1) Lead us on the safe path through life (*point at the lighthouse*) and
- 2) Help us see things as they really are (*point at the lamp*) so that we are not walking in darkness.

And finally, Jesus, light of the world promises us His presence and that He will never leave us. (*Hold up your candle and light it. Then place it somewhere where it can be seen for the rest of the service*)

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God never left them.

- He was with them through the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.....

When Jesus was born, one of the names given to Him was "Immanuel",

- which means God with us.

If we choose to follow Jesus, He has promised to never, ever leave us.

- He said: "*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:40)

We may not be able to see Jesus, the light of the world, with our physical eyes,

- but He is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

When we have Jesus living so close to us, we don't need to be afraid of anything,

- because He is God.....
- He is powerful and He is good.

**Candles:**

You may like to pass around candles<sup>5</sup> for people to light during the next song and as a reminder of Jesus' presence with them. Encourage them to take their candles home and put them in a place that reminds them of Jesus' presence with them.

**Songs:**

Song/s about Jesus' presence as per Appendix 1

**Memory Verse:**

Repeat the memory verse a couple of times, this time without the light prompts!

**Prayers:**

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family or by a Sunday school group etc. You could lead the prayers in the following way:

- 1) Praising Jesus for who He is and ending with the refrain:  
**You are the light of the world. Help us to follow You.**
- 2) Praying for those who don't yet Jesus, who are spiritually blind to His love and to their sin.  
**You are the light of the world. Help them to follow You.**
- 3) Praying for those in positions of leadership and responsibility.  
**You are the light of the world. Help them to follow You.**

End the time of prayer with the Lord's prayer.

**Summary:**

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

- Light is "good news" because it helps us to see. Jesus is the "Light of the world"
- If we choose to follow Jesus:
  - He will lead us on the safe path through life,
  - He will help us see things as they really are so that we are not walking in darkness and
  - He will never leave us.

**Final Song:**

Lead into the final songs as per Appendix 1

**Blessing:**

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

Jesus, You are the light of the world.

Keep us following You so that we never walk in darkness, but have the light of life,  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among  
you and remain with you always. Amen.

**[Notices:** If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

<sup>5</sup> You can purchase 4½ inch votive candles in packs of 100 and 500 from Eden ([www.eden.co.uk](http://www.eden.co.uk)) and also cardboard drip shields



## Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of opening songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- From where the sun rises (Graham Kendrick © 1996 Make Way Music)
- Holy, holy, holy (Lift up His name) (Nathan Fellingham © 1995 Thankyou Music)
- Immortal, invisible (Walter Chalmers Smith)
- Light of the world (Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music)
- Open the eyes of my heart Lord (Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- The splendour of the King (Chris Tomlin, Jesses Reeves & Ed Cash © 2004 Sixsteps Music)

ii) Song/s thanking Jesus for His forgiveness. Ideas include:

- Everyone needs compassion (Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan © 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- Jesus is greater than the greatest hero (Gill Hutchinson © 1992 Sea Dream Music)
- Thank you for saving me (Martin Smith © 1993 Curious? Music UK)
- You are good (Forever reign) (Reuben Morgan & Jason Ingram © 2009 Reuben Morgan / SHOUT! Publishing)
- Your grace is enough (Reuben Morgan © 2008 Reuben Morgan / Hillsong Publishing)

iii) Song/s about Jesus' presence. Ideas include:

- Always with me (Becky Drake © 2007 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Be still for the presence of the Lord (David J Evans © 1986 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus be the centre (Michael Frye © 1999 Vineyard Songs)
- Like a candle flame (Graham Kendrick © 1988 Make Way Music)
- To be in your presence (Noel Richards © 1991 Thankyou Music)
- Turn your eyes upon Jesus (Helen Lemmel adapted by Vicky Beeching & Christopher Stevens © 2005 Singspiration Music)

iv) Final song. Ideas include:

- Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (William Williams)
- In Christ alone (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2001 Thankyou Music)
- Lord the light of your love is shining (Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music)
- So I've made up my mind (Ishmael © 1985 Thankyou Music)
- The Spirit lives to set us free (Damian Lundy © Words: 1978 Kevin Mayhew Ltd)
- You are my vision O King of my heart (Eleanor Henrietta Hull, Mary Elizabeth Byrne, Rend Collective © 2011 Thankyou Music)

## Appendix 2 - Dramatised Reading: Luke 18:35-43

- Cast:** Narrator, Jesus (dressed in a white robe), blind man Bill
- Props:** Chair for blind man, dark glasses, stick and some sort of a begging bowl for the blind man.
- Staging:** The congregation will be the crowd. Either project the words for them to say or write the words on large pieces of card for someone to hold up.

.....  
*(Enter Narrator who begins by speaking directly to the congregation)*

Narrator: Today I want each one of you here to imagine that you have been following Jesus in his travels and that you are part of a large crowd. As words come up on the screen (or held up) please speak them out as loudly as you can.

Oh who have we here?

*(Blind man appears at the front of church, wearing dark glasses, walking slowly and tapping his stick. When he reaches the chair which is positioned centre stage, he sits down and holds out his begging bowl.)*

It is Bill....begging again. He has been blind since he was born.....and the only way he can make a living is by begging.....  
 Hang on a moment, I can see Jesus.....he is approaching Jericho.

*(Enter Jesus, who walks slowly from the back of the church to the front.....)*

I wonder if he is going to do anything exciting today.

Crowd: It's Jesus.....welcome to Jericho.....welcome to Jericho

Blind Bill: What's happening?

Crowd: Jesus of Nazareth is passing by

Blind Bill: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

Crowd: How dare you shout at Jesus.....be quiet Bill.....show some respect!

Blind Bill: *(Shouts loudly)* JESUS, SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME!

*(By this time Jesus has arrived at the front of church and near blind Bill)*

Jesus: What do you want me to do for you?

Blind Bill: Lord I want to see

Jesus: Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.

*(Blind Bill slowly stands up, removes his dark glasses, looks around in amazement and says)*

Blind Bill: I can see, I can see. Praise God I can see.

*(Jesus walks back down the aisle with Blind Bill as the crowd shout)*

Crowd: Praise God, Praise Him who makes the blind to see

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

© Jane Hulme 2017

## Appendix 3 – Puppet Script – “What if God shows up my sin?”

### Characters:



The script is a dialogue between a young boy puppet called “James” who wants to follow Jesus but keeps getting things wrong, and his wise old “Grandad” puppet who helps to sort him out. Each puppet is operated by one person from behind a screen and so it is essential that the voices are heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including <http://www.onewayuk.com/>

.....  
*Enter Grandad*

Grandad: James, James.....

*James appears*

Grandad: Ah lovely to see you James.....it’s been a while since I saw you last.

James: I know Grandad....it seems like ages.

Grandad: I normally see you in church on Sundays James but recently you haven’t been coming. What’s going on?

James: Oh this and that Grandad.

Grandad: How about telling me about the “this and that” James?

James: Just stuff Grandad.

Grandad: James, I may be getting old, but I am not stupid. What’s the problem?

James: The Vicar Grandad.

Grandad: Right. And what has the Vicar done now?

James: I’m an earwig Grandad.....you know me.

Grandad: *(In a totally bewildered voice.)* An earwig James....what are you talking about?

James: *(Starts singing)* earwiggo, earwiggo, earwiggo.....

Grandad: *(Interrupts the singing)* That’s enough James. Now I know that you like football, but what is all this nonsense about being an earwig?

James: Earwigs live in the dark Grandad and they do not like coming out into the light! I’m an earwig.

Grandad: James, have you been watching some strange nature programmes recently?

James: No Grandad....but I am an earwig. Earwigs do not like the light, and the Vicar told us that He is going to ask Jesus to come with his great big light and show up all of our sins.

Grandad: I see....now things are becoming clearer.

James: Grandad....what if Jesus shows up one Sunday and tells everyone about all the wrong things I've done.....there are so many that I would die of embarrassment? That's why I haven't been coming to church. I'm an earwig!

Grandad: Oh James, Jesus isn't like that. He loves you so much that he wouldn't humiliate you in front of everyone else. He wants to bring you freedom from the wrong things that you have done, not shame..... but it is only in His presence that we see those wrong things. That is why He is sometimes described as a light.

James: Oh... I see....so I don't need to hide anymore.

Grandad: No you don't James. Shall I see you in church next Sunday now we've sorted that one out?

James: I'm not sure that the Vicar will want me in church any more now Grandad.

Grandad: What do you mean James? Of course he will.

James: I left him a little present in the pockets of his cassock!


Grandad: Go on.....

James: Earwigs Grandad, Earwigs!

Grandad: James!

*Exit James and Grandad*

**Appendix 4 – Prayer inviting Jesus to reveal sin**

	<p>In the light of your presence Jesus, show us the sins we need to confess to You and turn away from. Amen.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
---	---