

## God Is Light

Think of the properties of light for a moment. Light exists as both mass and energy, as particles and waves. You can measure each, but not at the same time. You cannot capture light in the entirety of its essence. In short, light is mysterious. Yet by it we see clearly everything that exists.

Light is also fast, traveling at about 186,000 miles per second. You can't outrun it or hide from wherever its rays penetrate.

God is like light. So mysterious that he cannot be known in his essence, and yet he is the basis on which anything is known at all; so “fast” that he is literally everywhere at once, in the fullness of his deity. To him nothing is dark. “If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,’ even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you” (Psalm 139:11, 12).

But God is more than *like* the light. God *is* light. The created substance that we call light is different from the uncreated light that is God. God made something like himself to illuminate the formless and empty earth he had just created. The heavens, with all their refulgent splendor, *declare* God's glory; they mirror God's light (Psalm 19:1). But the light that is God himself is unapproachable; no one has seen or can see him (1 Timothy 6:16). The mystery of created light is nothing compared to the mystery of God himself.

And yet God has chosen to reveal himself. Not exhaustively, but sufficiently. The first thing he did after creating man was to communicate his will to him. God has been communicating knowledge of himself and his will ever since. The climax of that communication came when Jesus stood before the Jewish people and declared, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). Jesus was making the stupendous claim that he is what God is—light! And God is one. Jesus and God are the same. “Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). “He is the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15). The Son is “the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature” (Hebrews 1:3).

Don't think you can have God without his Son, or the Son without his Father. The light of each is the same light.

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*1 John 1:5*

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703  
[www.berkeleyopc.org](http://www.berkeleyopc.org)

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

**THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF**

Salutation and Call to Worship

\*Hymn of Praise # 376

*“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”*

\*Invocation

\*Hymn of Praise # 24

*“Vast the Immensity, Mirror of Majesty”*

**CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE**

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

**OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER**

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 371

*“O Lord of Hosts, How Lovely”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

\*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

**THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD**

\*Hymn of Preparation # 602

*“O God, My Faithful God”*

Sermon Text

Isaiah 29

Sermon

AH, ARIEL, ARIEL

\*Hymn of Response # 358

*“For All the Saints”*

**THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING**

\*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

# 734

\*The Lord's Benediction

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**Announcements**

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Colossians.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church immediately following the congregational meeting. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at [wforkner86@mac.com](mailto:wforkner86@mac.com).