

Truly He is Risen

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The light of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

Hymn 490 from the Episcopal Hymnal 1980

I chose this hymn, or rather, I choose this hymn many times. For this coming Sunday, I chose it as the Closing Hymn, because it represents every best intention I have for moving out into and among the world. It was also the hymn chosen¹ as the Closing Hymn for my ordination to the diaconate, my entry into ordained life. I think I choose/chose it so often because it has become my new touchstone of faith.

We believe that God has created a Good Thing in God's good creation. We believe that God loves us and wants us to be happy, and when we look up at the stars that surround us in the cosmos, we see that God's loving handiwork surrounds us, quite literally. God set the stars to give light to the world.

For millennia, we humans have used the stars to guide us across seas, of water and of sand. As children, we have looked to the stars for wishes, and to choose that One Star that is ours. The light of my life is Jesus. Choosing Jesus means that I don't have to hunt any more for that star of guidance, for Jesus illumines all my soul. Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

Now, I know that the road is hard and I don't know exactly where it leads, but I trust. I trust that, even when I veer left or right off the path, Jesus will shepherd me back on track. That's his promise to us; he said to his disciples (and to us, since we, too, are disciples) that he would be with them to the end of the ages. Jesus will never leave us – it's usually we who leave him. All we need do is trust Jesus, take his hand and let him lead. It might be hard now when we feel isolated, perhaps alone, and angry and frustrated in this isolation. However, when we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. And that's a promise.

~the Rev. Charlotte Wells

¹ And chosen unanimously, I might add, by all 5 ordinands...