

1127108

Att: Susan, Dana, Tina,  
5 Lola, Linda Breen

## WALKING IN THE LIGHT (Epiphany 3A)

### LOOK

Many people in today's world live in darkness and fear. They don't want others to know everything about them because they fear that what they are doing would not be acceptable to others. Perhaps they even know that something they are doing is wrong.

- 1) In your experience, what kinds of things about themselves are people most afraid of sharing with others? Why do you think this is true?
- 2) Did you ever find the courage to share with another something hidden that you felt was shameful or unacceptable? Describe what happened (as much as you feel comfortable sharing) and how you felt afterwards.

### BOOK

#### **Isaiah 9:1-4**

Before reading passage: This is the second time we have heard this reading recently, as it was also used for Christmas. As it's read, listen to the words about light and darkness, and reflect on how they are played out in our faith journey. The quote about walking in the light is repeated in today's passage from the Gospel according to Matthew, as a way of proclaiming Jesus as the fulfillment of this prophecy from Isaiah.

After reading passage: Scripture scholar Dale Allison Jr. says, "We are wont to think of ourselves, because we are in the church, as children who walk in the light...but if we are candid, the light of Christ often hurts our eyes....Isn't today's proclamation of Christ as the great light an opportunity to ask whether we ourselves do not often prefer to sit in darkness? Christ brings the hidden things to light, and we all have things to hide."

- 1) How do you feel about what Allison says? Do you think it's true that Christians in general believe they are walking in the light but really have things to hide?
- 2) How have you seen Christ bring hidden things to light?

### TOOK

- 1) How might our lives as individuals and as a Christian community be transformed if we were willing to let Christ bring all the hidden things within us to light?
- 2) Is there an area of your life that you need to pay special attention to in order to let Christ's light shine there?