Christmas is a season which heavily features light – strong theme.

Eg Tree lights, star over the manger, the Magi, angels and the shepherds, John’s prologue.

About half of my cards have stars/candles on, people decorate their homes (inside & out) with lights.

In the northern hemisphere Christmas is in winter with longer nights, where light is needed.

Christmas celebrated in winter to offset Saturnalia and other winter festivals, but when was Jesus really born? No one knows.

Biblically, Isaiah 9.2, and 60.19-20:

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.** and **No longer will the sun be your light by day or the moon be your light by night; I, the Lord, will be your eternal light; the light of my glory will shine on you. Your days of grief will come to an end. I, the Lord, will be your eternal light, more lasting than the sun and the moon.**

In what way were they living in darkness (they were not blind)?

Context: politically Judah was near collapse and neighbouring Israel was in the point of being destroyed, in society the needy were neglected, religiously prayer was not backed by action. This was a spiritual darkness.

Rather than trusting in Assyria (to fight off Israel & Syria, and 10 years later attacked Judah), God wanted them to trust him, promising light and glory.

Is our situation all that much better? What light do we need?

Electricity usage grows, so there may come a time when not enough power at night – physical light.

Politically we want wise leaders who trust and live goodness.

In society we seek for the vulnerable to be supported.

Religiously we look to trust in God more fully.

So where does Jesus fit? In Advent Study Groups we looked at Isaiah 9.6 and saw that Jesus was wise leader (Wonderful Counsellor), one who used the power of love (Mighty God), cared for the weak (Eternal Father), sought peace within/without (Prince of Peace).

His is a true spiritual light – perceived by any who want to, whether blind or not, whatever the politics of the day, the state of society, the weakness of the church. Come, Lord Jesus, come!