

God of light and love,

As we await this Christmas – one like no other
lift our eyes to the first Christmas – one like no
other.

Amid the chaos and trouble, let the message—
Good News, Christ is born! —
ring louder than all that surrounds it.

In places torn apart by war, disease, sorrow
Let your love light the way.

During these times of great uncertainty
may your Word be the lamp that lights our way.

For those living in poverty, suffering illness, grieving,
be the candle of hope burning bright within them.

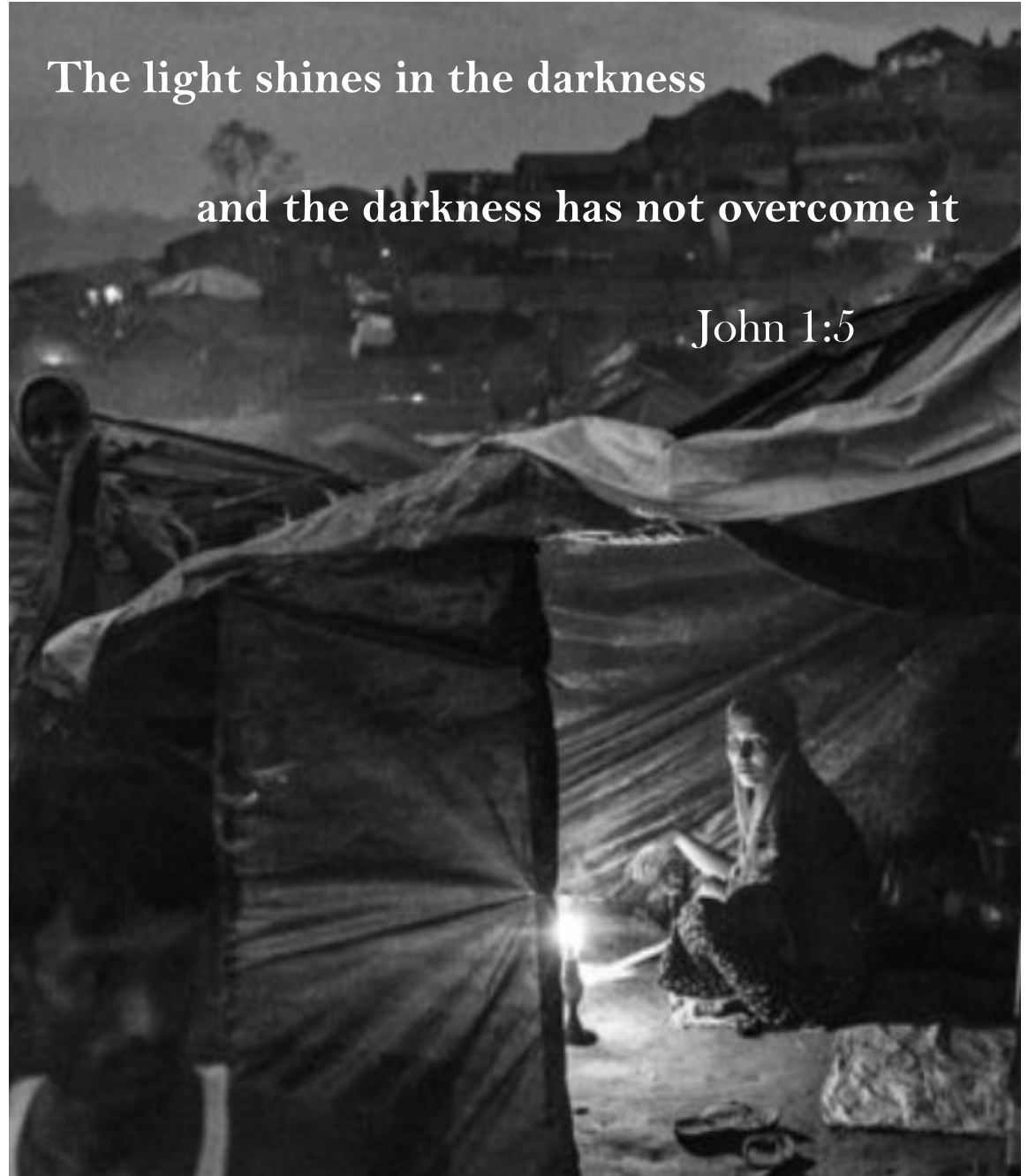
May all who know trouble, hardship, oppression
know that you are the light of the world,
that your birth is the good news of salvation.

All of this we ask through Christ our Saviour,
Amen

The light shines in the darkness

and the darkness has not overcome it

John 1:5





It has been a strange year for us all, in every part of our world. More than ever we need to hear the message of Christmas: Immanuel: God with us. When we have been unable to meet each other in person, only virtually, it is a comfort and a joy to know that God is with us, each one of us, in every situation.

After his birth, Jesus and his family immediately had to seek refuge. As we celebrate his coming to be amongst us, we remember all those today who seek refuge. Even in a time of pandemic, the Christmas message is one that is principally about hope. The baby's birth is a challenge to the whole of humanity to dare to look beyond ourselves to the needs of those around us, in the knowledge that God thought everyone was worth sending Jesus for.

All of us at the Church of Scotland wish you a very peaceful Christmas, filled with the welcoming love and generosity of Jesus.