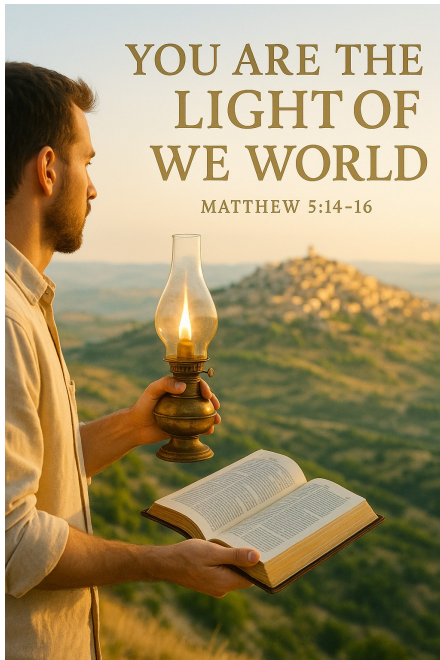


Sundays at 9:00AM

May 17, 2025

# The Jefferson Spirit



## Let Your Light Shine: Faith That Serves the Community

In **Matthew 5:14–16**, Jesus says, “*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*” These words challenge us to live visibly and boldly in our faith—not hiding it, but allowing God’s light to shine through our actions.

This call to be a light in the world aligns closely with the mission of the **Ruritan Club**, a community service organization dedicated to making rural communities better places to live and work. Through acts of kindness, leadership, and neighborly support, Ruritan members reflect the values Jesus describes—bringing light where it’s needed most.

As we reflect on this passage, may we be reminded that each of us has a role to play in illuminating the world with God’s love.

## Order of Worship

Welcome

Time of Reflection and Prayer

Opening Prayer

### **\*Call to Worship (Congregation)**

Leader:

Come, people of God, let us gather in the light of His presence.

**People:**

**We are the light of the world, called to shine with grace, truth, and love.**

Leader:

Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

**People:**

**We come to worship the One who lights our path and empowers us to serve.**

**All:**

**Let us lift our voices, our hearts, and our lives to the Lord—together, we will shine!**

## **Children's Message**

\*Christ for the World We Sing , p.568 UMC Hymnal

## **Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:14–16**

## **Sermon: Let Your Light Shine: Faith That Serves the Community**

Offertory - UMC Choir

\*Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal

Rise Up O Men of God, p.576 UMC Hymnal

## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God,  
the Creator of every town and every neighbor,  
who calls us to seek the peace and prosperity of the places we are planted.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
the Light of the World,  
who came not to be served, but to serve,  
and who taught us that greatness is found in humble acts of love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who ignites our hearts with compassion,  
empowers us to do good,  
and places our light on a stand for all to see.**

**We believe that faith is not meant to be hidden,  
but lived out—in kindness, in courage, in community.**

**We believe that good deeds done in love  
shine light into darkness  
and reflect the glory of God to the world.**

**Therefore, we go forward—  
as people of light,  
as builders of peace,  
as servants of Christ,  
trusting that our faithful witness  
will bring honor to the One who first called us to shine.**

**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

Joys and Concerns

## Pastoral Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life, p.427 UMC Hymnal

\*Sending Forth

Postlude

## Interesting Facts About Matthew 5:14–16

### 1. Jesus Uses Everyday Imagery

Jesus chose two very ordinary images—a **city on a hill** and a **lamp on a stand**—to explain something extraordinary. These were common sights for His listeners. The “city on a hill” likely referred to a visible town like **Safed**, a well-known elevated city in Galilee that could be seen from miles away. A lamp in the home was the only source of light at night. These images made His message clear and relatable.

### 2. He Doesn’t Say “Be the Light”—He Says “You Are”

Jesus doesn’t command His followers to become light. He declares that they **already are** light. This isn’t about earning status—it’s about **identity**. As believers, we reflect God’s presence just by living out who we truly are in Him.

### 3. It’s the First Time Jesus Speaks About Influence

This passage is part of the **Sermon on the Mount**, Jesus’ first major public teaching. Right after the Beatitudes, He launches into this passage about influence. He’s essentially saying: *If you live the way I just described—merciful, pure in heart, peacemaking—you will naturally shine.*

### 4. The Greek Word for “Good” Means Beautiful

When Jesus says, “*that they may see your good deeds*,” the Greek word for *good* is **kalos**, which also means *beautiful* or *noble*. It’s not just about usefulness—it’s about the kind of good that draws others in. Christ-followers are meant to live beautifully and attractively for God’s glory.

### 5. It Echoes God’s Mission in the Old Testament

This teaching fulfills a longstanding pattern in Scripture. In **Isaiah 42:6**, God says to Israel: “*I will make you a light for the nations.*” Jesus continues that mission—passing the torch to His followers, calling them to live in a way that draws the world to God.

### 6. This Is One of the Roots of the Phrase “City on a Hill” in American History

The phrase “city on a hill” has been famously used in American political rhetoric—especially by **John Winthrop** and later **President Ronald Reagan**—to describe a moral example to the world. But its origin is deeply

**biblical**, and its original context was about the **church's witness**, not national identity.

## 7. It's Not About Personal Glory

The passage ends with *"that they may glorify your Father in heaven."* The goal of shining light isn't self-promotion—it's **God-promotion**. Our good works aren't the destination; they're signs pointing people to the Source of light.

### Let Your Light Shine" Quiz

#### 1. What did Jesus compare His followers to in Matthew 5:14?

- A) Light of the world
- B) Salt of the earth
- C) Shepherds of sheep

#### 2. According to Jesus, where should a lamp be placed?

- A) Under a bowl
- B) In a closet
- C) On its stand

#### 3. What does light help people do?

- A) Sleep better
- B) Find their way
- C) Hear more clearly

#### 4. In Matthew 5:16, why are we told to let our light shine?

- A) To feel important
- B) To win awards
- C) So others will glorify God
- D) So we won't get lost

#### 5. What kind of deeds does Jesus say others will see?

- A) Lucky deeds
- B) Fast deeds
- C) Mysterious deeds
- D) Good deeds

#### 6. Which Old Testament verse says, "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city..."?

- A) Psalm 23:1
- B) Isaiah 9:6
- C) Jeremiah 29:7
- D) Genesis 1:1

#### 7. What is the mission of the Ruritan Club (as discussed in the sermon)?

- A) Sports and recreation
- B) Fellowship, goodwill, and community service
- C) International diplomacy
- D) Musical entertainment

#### 8. What did Jesus say about His own purpose in Mark 10:45?

- A) To become king
- B) To teach fishing
- C) To be served
- D) To serve and give His life

#### 9. What does the Greek word "kalos" (used for "good deeds") also mean?

- A) Confusing
- B) Beautiful
- C) Harsh
- D) Dangerous

#### 10. True or False: Jesus said "You might be the light of the world."

#### Answer Key:

1. B – Light of the world
2. C – On its stand
3. B – Find their way
4. C – So others will glorify God
5. D – Good deeds
6. C – Jeremiah 29:7
7. B – Fellowship, goodwill, and community service
8. D – To serve and give His life
9. B – Beautiful
10. False – He said "You are the light of the world"

Pastor Mark Jarema

[pastormarkjarema@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarkjarema@gmail.com)

443-977-0760

Facebook: [JUMCMC.ORG](https://www.facebook.com/JUMCMC.ORG)

Website: [www.jumcmd.org](http://www.jumcmd.org)

## Sermon Insights

### Sermon Lesson:

Matthew 5:14–16 reminds us that our faith was never meant to be hidden—it was meant to shine. Jesus calls us the light of the world, not because of our perfection, but because of His presence within us. Just as a lamp gives light to everyone in the house, our everyday actions—kindness, service, honesty, encouragement—can light the way for others to see God. When we live with purpose and love, our lives become visible testimonies of God’s grace. So whether you're volunteering in the community, helping a neighbor, or simply showing up with compassion, remember: your light matters, and someone may find their way to God because of it.

### Application:

#### 1. Live Your Faith Publicly, Not Privately

Let your kindness, integrity, and love for others be visible in your everyday interactions. Whether at work, in your neighborhood, or on social media, choose to reflect Christ through your words and actions.

#### 2. Serve Where You Are Planted

Just like a lamp lights up the room it’s placed in, God has positioned you in your community for a reason. Look for small but meaningful ways to serve—volunteer, encourage someone, or support a local effort like the Ruritan Club.

#### 3. Point Glory Back to God

When people notice the good in you, redirect the praise to the One who lit the flame. Let your life spark conversations that lead others to discover God’s goodness, not just your own generosity.

### Conclusion:

As we go out into the world this week, may we remember that we are not just called to believe—we are called to shine. Jesus has already placed His light within us, and now it’s our turn to let it be seen. Whether through quiet acts of service, encouraging words, or simply showing up with love, your light has the power to guide, to comfort, and to glorify God. Don’t underestimate what He can do through one life lit by His grace. So step boldly into your community, and let your light shine.

### Announcements:

June 8 - 10AM June Birthday Celebration  
June 14 - 9 AM Prayer Meeting at JUMC  
**June 22-26 - 6:15-8:15 PM Vacation Bible School at JUMC**  
July 12 - 9AM Prayer Meeting at JUMC  
July 13 - 10AM July Birthday Celebration

### Prayer Requests:

Prayers for Carol Waple as she recovers from open heart surgery.

Prayers for the family of Bailey Drake who was killed in a motorcycle accident this week.

Doris Branch has asked for prayers for Greg Duda and the caregivers, who has been diagnosed with Glioblastoma and prayers for Chad Lewis who is having some health issues.