

Finally, to follow Christ enables us to see death as part of life and to approach it not as a denial of everything but as a consummation. We can approach death with a hope for eternity in the joy and peace of God.

In these ways and others the light of Christ shines into the dark corners of our contemporary culture because he provides us with a story to set ourselves alongside.

There is though one question remaining. Do we want the light? After all light reveals things we might want to keep hidden. Remember the words of the prophet Malachi in our Old Testament reading? I shall appear before you, quick to testify against sorcerers and adulterers and perjurers and those who cheat the needy or don't welcome the alien. Don't expect the light of Christ to be easy or gentle. To follow Christ is not to choose a spirituality which makes you feel good and holy; it is

to engage with the man on the cross and to embrace the challenge and to bow before him in humility

Simeon said that the baby was to cause the falling and the rising of many and that he would be rejected. Well Christians are those who have accepted him and that acceptance brings us light and life but remember that it cannot do so without laying bare our secrets and, as Mary came to know, piercing our souls.

We are to proclaim that afresh on our generation.

Michael Camp

Strings in the earth and air Make music sweet (James Joyce)

Many congratulations to Tom Corns on finding the lovely new Yamaha grand piano, which has been funded from the generous legacy of Constance Peaker. It will enhance our music-making in church services and concerts, and be well used in the next lunchtime concert on Tuesday 21 March when we have a violin and piano recital by two talented local musicians.



Jacqui Miles is a violinist in the English National Opera Orchestra, and has also played with the Royal Opera and London Philharmonic Orchestras. She teaches locally and also in the Junior Department of the Guildhall School of Music.

Tau Wey, was born in Taiwan and now lives in Beckenham. He studied at Trinity College of Music after reading Music at Cambridge and has won several prestigious prizes and awards. He has performed in the Cambridge and Aldeburgh Festivals and at the BBC Proms.

Their programme includes sonatas by Handel and Grieg and we look forward to hearing them. Do come!

Celia Yeo