

Season 6 – Week 14 (January 12, 2014)
Arise, Shine

Good morning. Welcome to the ongoing season of winter. For many years, we forgot just what the season was about. This is what I recall of winter as a kid. Lots of snow; some really cold days; and spring took forever to arrive. Now as an adult, winter is remembered as too much salt on the roads (and on the cars); too high of heat bills; and spring still takes a long time to come BUT April 15th always arrives too soon (tax day)!

Last time we started the series entitled **Arise, Shine** and that is what we will continue to look at for the next few Sundays. It is based on several verses using the words **Arise, shine** or similar words in the verse. It is a way to get us up and moving when the world would rather see us frozen in our tracks. These verses are on the cream colored papers so take one and bring it for the next few Sundays.

Our first verse last session was from **Isaiah 60:1** (repeat together) **"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you."** (NIV © 2011) When we hear these words from Isaiah we think of Advent and Christmas as prophesy for the coming of Christ. I believe that this verse is applicable to us every day of our lives. The words **Arise, Shine** are action words or even command words. For some of us, waking up and having someone give us our 'orders' for the day may seem like a great idea as we are not always clear on what God is leading us to do or where we are heading for that day. We do have our 'orders', such as, **'love your neighbor as yourself'** or **'give generously to the poor, not grudgingly...'** (Deut. 15:10). The interesting part is the word shine...which generally means to 'reflect' as a surface which has been polished so that it sparkles when light hits it. And this is not just any light, it is **'the light of the world'** Jesus. With that light comes the **'glory of the Lord'** which says that it rises upon you. So, today and each day until our last, let us **"Arise, shine, for you light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."**

Our second verse from last time was **Isaiah 60:3** (repeat together) **"Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."** (NIV © 2011) We talked about our ancestry or family history in coming to this country. For the early Pilgrims, it was a search for religious freedoms. This verse in Isaiah refers to the 'light' being Christ. And we know of the Wiseman who came following the light of the star until they found Jesus. We have read about other kings and rulers who have been so drawn to the light of Christ that they have made it their national religion. God has always made it an individual choice and not a mandate from any earthly ruler. It says that **'Nations will come to your light'**. It is a voluntary act. It is a recognition that without it there is only darkness. And it concludes, **'and kings to the brightness of your dawn'**. We know that before dawn, those early rays are announcing that a new day is coming... get ready. Then went the sun does rise, it looks huge on the horizon as we get a magnified

