

Passing on the Light



Art In the beginning, the universe was dark and cold –
 and the Spirit hovered and brooded
 and whispered
 "Let there be life!"

Carol In the beginning God said
 "Let there be light"

Art In the beginning the Word was spoken
 and light and life came into being!

Carol In the beginning God looked at all that had been made
 and saw that it was very good.

Art In the beginning...

(GETTING SOFTER)

Carol In the beginning...

Art In the beginning....

Carol In the beginning...

Art Soon after the beginning –
 God handed the light to human beings –
 to Adam and to Eve

Carol And they handed the light on to their children
 to Cain who turned from the light –
 and to Abel who lived and died in the light
 and to all their children

Art And their children handed the light on to their children –
 to Noah who lived when the world was turning dark
 The world was in grey with cloud and flood water –
 but God set a rainbow in the sky
 to remind them of the light.

Carol And Noah handed the light on to his children

Art And they handed it on to their children

Carol who handed it on to their children

Art who handed it on to their children ...

Carol Until one night, God spoke to a man in the dark of the desert,
"Look at the stars – look at the stars.
Look at the stars Abram.
Take the light to a new homeland –
Take the light – and take a new name
You shall be Abraham and your wife shall be Sarah"

Art Abraham took the light and gave it to Isaac

Carol Who gave it to Jacob

Art Who gave it to Joseph

Carol Who gave it to the Hebrews who lived in Egypt

Art But Egypt became a dark place for God's people –
and God spoke to another man in the desert.
The light became a burning bush
and Moses approached and heard God's voice

Carol "Take this light to my people –
Go – tell Pharaoh: Let God's people go!"

Art So Moses took the light to God's people
and led them into the desert –
where they wandered for forty years until God led them to the Promised Land

Carol And the light passed to Joshua –
to Deborah –
to Gideon –
and on and on until it passed to Samson
who was blinded –
but still trusted the light.

Art The light passed to Ruth, the Moabite –
who handed it to Obed –
who handed it to Jesse –
who handed it to David

Carol And the light passed to Hannah –
who gave it to Samuel
who saw the light in David and named him king

Art And David passed the light to Solomon
and Solomon passed the light on to generations of kings

Carol But the Kingdom began to grow dark –
so God handed the light to the prophets:
to Elijah and Elisha
to Jeremiah and to Micah
to Hosea and to Amos

Art The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light
On those who lived in shadows – on them God’s light has shone.

Carol And the light burnt in the darkness of Exile
in the hope of rebuilding:
through invasion and suffering
the light did not go out.

Art An angel appeared to Mary
and passed a new light to her...
Creation held its breath

Carol And an angel appeared in a dream to Joseph
and passed a new light to him...
Creation held its breath...

Art And in the dark of a stable in the town of Bethlehem
a new light was given to the world:
the one who was there in the beginning came into the world
in him was life – and the life was the light of peoples.
The Word became flesh and lived among us.

Carol The light shone in the darkness

Art And the darkness did not overcome it

Carol For the Light and Life of the world was destined to enter the darkest of darkness –
and it seemed –
for a while –
as if the darkness had won...

Art But in the darkest hours just before sunrise
darkness gave way to a new dawn
an eternal dawn:
eternal light shone upon the world

Carol The **Light of the World** returned to the Father

Art **But** passed the light on to his disciples –
to Peter – to Mary –
to the Twelve –

Carol And to the Three Thousand –
who saw the light of the Spirit’s new coming
and believed.

Art And the light appeared to Saul
and Saul became Paul
and took the light to the nations –
to Rome

Carol And some took the light into desert places

Art And some to the east

Carol And some to the south

Art And some to the north

Carol The light dwelt with Alexander, Benedict and Scholastica, and Anthanasius.

Art The light went with Patrick – to Ireland –
It went with Moses the Black – to Egypt -

Carol And the light lived in the darkness of the fall of Rome –
It passed to Gregory – to Monica and Augustine –
and small lights shone in the darkness of the Dark Ages

Art The light passed on to Francis and to Clare
whose lives glowed with the power of simplicity

Carol To Ignatius – to Teresa
who found God in the power of imagination

Art To Martin dePorres who found God in the power of social justice and racial
harmony

Carol But the light became divided
and humans tried to possess it:
to claim it as their own

Art Yet the light was not defeated:

Carol The light passed to those who loved God’s Word –
who translated it – and placed it into the hands of believers.

Art The light passed to those who sought to understand God’s creation,
and explored its wonders.

Carol The light passed to those who saw the dignity of human beings
and fought to bring justice to the poor –
freedom to those who were slaves.

Art The light traveled to new continents –
and passed to new peoples –
to Rose of Lima and to Juan Diego and to those who believe in the Americas

Carol to Paul Miki and to those who believe in the East
to Charles Lwanga, and Peter Claver and to those who believe in Africa

Art to Kateri Tekakwitha,
to Toussaint L'Ouverture, and to Pierre Toussaint

Carol The light passed to Bernadette and Therese

Art To Sojourner Truth, to Chief Joseph and to Harriet Tubman

Carol to Dietrich Bonhoefer and to Maximillian Kolbe and to John XXIII

SLOW DOWN

Art to **Martin Luther King** and **Dorothy Day**
to **Cesar Chavez, Rosa Parks,** and to **Nelson Mandela**
to **Desmond Tutu, Malcolm X**
to **Brother Roger** and **Mother Teresa**

Carol The light spread to **Thea Bowman,** and **Coretta Scott King**
It spread to **Clem Kern,** and to **Tom McAnoy.**
It spread to **Bill Cunningham,** to **Jim Wright** and to **John Markham.**

PAUSE

Art It traveled to us

PAUSE

Carol The light **waits** –

Art **Who** will keep the light burning?

Carol **Who** will take the light into the world?
into the rest of **Detroit?**
into **Highland Park?**
into **Farmington-Farmington Hills?**

Art Who will carry the light from this place?

Carol/Art The light is **ours** to carry
Ours together with one another
We **are** carrying it
We **will** carry it –
We will **continue** to carry it
Forever we will carry it....
Let there be light!

Adapted from © 2005 Wellspring