



# National Youth Sunday 2026

Light within Us, Matthew 5:14-16

## Creative Elements

by Anna Schweitzer

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### Sight:

- At the beginning of the service, or as individuals are walking in, give everyone a small candle and sticky note.
- Encourage people to write one way they will be God's "light to the world" this week on their sticky note.
- Towards the end of service, with a light-themed song playing in the background light the first candle from a Christ candle on the front of the altar and use this flame to light every other candle present in the sanctuary.
- Individuals will come forward to have their candle lit, as well as place their sticky note on the altar/whiteboard/wall at the front of the sanctuary, as a visual representation of how much light everyone in the congregation has to spread to the world.

### Sight:

- At the beginning of service, or as individuals are walking in, pass out glowsticks to each person.

- Have everyone break their glowsticks with the building lights still on – note how it might be hard to see the glowsticks shine.
- Have all (or most) of the lights in the space turned off – emphasize how much easier it is to see the glowsticks with the lights off. Just as how goodness/light is much easier seen during dark times and how we must continue to be this light amidst a world of pain and suffering.
- Tell congregants to take their glowsticks home with them, and put them up somewhere as a reminder of how we are meant to shine our light to those around us.

### **Smell/Touch:**

- After the sermon/message, encourage individuals to come forward and be anointed with oil infused with scent.
- Anoint individuals to send them out into the world to reflect the light of Christ to all those around them
- Suggested words:
  - “With this anointing, I bless you to be a reflection of Christ in the world. May you carry inside of you the light of Christ, shining it like a city on a hill for all to see. Amen.”

### **Hear:**

- Suggested light-related music choices
  - *This Little Light of Mine*
  - *Thy Word*, by Amy Grant
  - *My Lighthouse*, by Rend Collective
  - *Arise My Soul New Light Receiving*
  - *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*