# Pastor's Welcome Message 2026

When Jesus says, **"You are the light of the world"** (Matthew 5:14), He is not giving us a task to perform, but a life to live. We shine like stars in the night, not because of how good we are, but because of who Jesus is to us. That is why shining always begins with beholding Jesus. And we become what we behold.

We live in a time when anxiety has become deeply ingrained in our lives. Many of us carry constant worries about our families, studies, work, relationships, health, and future. Even when nothing seems wrong, our hearts can still feel unsettled, weighed down by a lingering sense that something is about to go wrong. The pace of life is fast, the noise and notifications are constant, and the pressure to perform and stay productive at all times can feel suffocating.

Into this, Jesus invites us to live differently. When we look at Jesus in the Gospels, we notice something striking about Him. He was often surrounded by urgent needs, demands, conflicts, and even crises, yet He was never anxious. He even slept in the midst of a storm. He was fully present to people, but never overwhelmed by their expectations. He was involved in their lives, but not consumed by their problems. His non-anxious presence was not the absence of chaos and crowds, but the result of His constant connectedness to His Father.

I believe one of the ways we live the light today is by becoming a non-anxious presence wherever God has placed us. This does not mean we never feel stress or worry, nor does it mean we ignore problems or pretend everything is fine. Rather, it means we choose not to let fear rule our hearts. Instead, we allow Jesus and His peace to guard our hearts in this anxiety-filled world. Simply put, the key to being a non-anxious presence is to keep our minds and hearts fixed on Jesus. As Isaiah 26:3 reminds us, **"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."**

A non-anxious presence is a powerful witness for Jesus Christ. In anxious homes, it brings stability amid strife. In tense workplaces, it can transform toxic, blame-shifting environments into cultures of trust and honour. In a fearful world, a non-anxious presence quietly yet clearly points people to the reality of Christ.

LIVING the LIGHT

*Behold • Transform • Shine*

But this kind of life does not happen automatically. It is formed over time as we abide in Christ. As we make Jesus our delight and our dependence, and as we intentionally order our lives to make time for Him through spiritual disciplines, we learn to trust God with what we cannot control, and His presence begins to shape us from the inside out.

Living the light may look very ordinary. It may look like choosing unhurried time with Jesus over extended screen time, Sabbath over busyness, prayer over reaction, trust over control, quiet formation over quick fixes. And in doing so, we shine the light of Christ by offering a non-anxious presence in a world marked by hurry, anger, uncertainty, and fear.

When we live as non-anxious people in an anxious world, we bear witness to a different kingdom – a kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:19). We can live this way not because we have everything in life figured out, but because we belong to the One who is above all things. May our hearts echo the words of the psalmist in Psalm 16:8–11.

> **8 I have set the LORD always before me;**
> **because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
> **9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being. rejoices;**
> **my flesh also dwells secure.**
> **10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,**
> **or let your holy one see corruption.**
> **11 You make known to me the path of life;**
> **in your presence there is fullness of joy;**
> **at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Blessing in Christ,

Rev Chan Siew Chye