December 3

John 8:12 (CEB)
Jesus spoke to the people again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won't walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

When I was a small child, I was not allowed to sleep with the light on in my room because it would not allow me to get a good night's sleep. However, in my 7th year, my mother died and the insecurity brought on by her loss made me feel afraid of the dark. I needed some reassurance, so I turned on the light in the hallway and left my bedroom door open. Even as a small child, I knew that there was comfort in light and I sought that light when I felt surrounded by darkness.

My father, who was left with four children to raise on his own, must have been terrified. He sought comfort in God and brought us up in faith. We never missed Sunday at church or a family meal together, and Dad was frequently heard to say "The Lord will never give you more than you can handle without His help."

Those days were dark and scary for my family at first. But God did not abandon us. God surrounded us with the light and love of friends, family and a church community. With God's help and guidance, we made it through. Eventually, I learned to sleep without the hall light on because I was taught that as a follower of Christ, the light was in me and around me. I would never again feel surrounded by darkness.

~ Claire Armstrong