

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

F *Unison Introduction*

Refrain
Bb C F

“I am the light of the world!

Bb C F Gm Dm C

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!” If you fol-low and love you’ll

F Gm7 C Bb F Bb F *Last time, end*

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

The musical score is written for a unison introduction and a refrain. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system includes the unison introduction and the first line of the refrain. The second system contains the second line of the refrain. The third system contains the final line of the refrain. Chord symbols are provided above the vocal line for each system. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4.

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr.
Jim Strathdee, 1969

F Bb/D C F

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 7 To find the lost and lone-ly one, 7 to
 3 7 To free the pris-oner from all chains, 7 to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, 7 to

star in the sky is gone, When the
 heal the bro-ken soul with love, 7 To
 make the pow-er-ful care, To re-
 dance at a ba-by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag-es and the shep-herds have found their way home, the
 feed the hun-gry chil-dren with warmth and good food, To
 build the na-tions with strength of good will, to
 make mu-sic in an old per-son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C Return to C

work of Christ-mas is be-gun:
 feel the earth be-low, the sky a-bove!
 see all God's chil-dren ev-ery-where!
 sing to the col-ors of the earth!

[Return.](#)