

Ring the bells (ring the bells) that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in



Wherever we live, in season and out of season, on days sunny and gloomy, we are surrounded by the Light of the World shining through loving people from every walk of life. They are Christ's light at work, and they inspire us to be the same. Poet Rita Simmonds phrases it beautifully in a Christmas poem titled "Admittance."

*The crèche is come  
to our lawns  
our shrines  
the Christmas corner in our lives.  
God has found shelter  
amid hectic, inhospitable terrain  
and pleads for warmth and welcome  
to jolt the darkness of the cave.  
Yet there are so many concealed coves  
where the lamb receives the wolf  
the cow lows with the bear  
the lion nibbles hay  
the cub and calf roll and yap  
the children poke and play.  
If we could only admit a crack of light  
Our eyes would see a different day.*



It need not be Christmas for each of us to be a crack of light in the lives of others. A small gesture of kindness, a word of encouragement, an attempt at reconciliation or a note of condolences can brighten another's spirit. Moreover, "If we could only admit a crack of light," we would see Christ himself shining lovingly on us through others (even as a singing snowman and a howling dog!). "If we could only admit a crack of light," we would soon discover that "dark days" are not really dark at all.