Brethren,

On a night when we have welcomed another individual into our fraternity and made him our Brother I wanted to talk about the meaning of light.

You my Brother, rested on knee bent and bare and when asked what is the predominant wish of your heart replied. ‘Light.” But what is light, what have you asked for?

Is it the natural agent that stimulates sight and makes things visible? Or a deeper understanding of a problem or mystery; as in enlightenment? Or perhaps, looking for someone providing a light as a beacon, so that you can see where you are going.

My contention is that the predominant wish of your heart is a combination of all three. We all strive for the warmth and compassion of the light. Who hasn’t stepped outside on a crisp and sunny day and taken a pause to drink in the warmth of the sun on your face. We undertake to bring the invisible into the light of day for examination and reflection. Using light to enable the work that we all do.

Masonry is a framework to make good men better. To become a partaker of the privileges and mysteries of freemasonry, you need to be prepared. At that moment when we open our hearts and minds to the light we are opening our perspective. In moving from Mister to Brother, you enter a world of new possibilities and perspectives, one of enlightenment.

The never ending quest for knowledge is a clockwise spiral through 4 quadrants. The first quadrant is Ignorance, where you don’t know what you don’t know. An unaware and unskilled craftsmen entering the Lodge, hoping to gain insight, but unsure of what is going on.

The second quadrant is Empathy the first step in acquiring knowledge and gaining mastery of yourself is gaining an understanding that there are things out there that you don’t know or understand. You begin to know what you don’t know, learning to think and study, building your faith, hope and charitable heart.

The Third Quadrant is Experience, now learning and growing, not knowing that you know the answers yet. You acquire an understanding of what there is to learn, to understand the intricate windings of your life and your influence on others. The tests and trials you face help you to gain insight and experience as you approach the fourth quadrant, Mastery.

Mastery, having a comprehensive knowledge or skill in a subject, or activity. Where you know what you know, and understand how to share it with others. Using Masonry to develop a sense of mastery can help us attain a higher level of excellence, a deeper sense of satisfaction and fulfillment in our daily lives. The light we seek drives higher self-esteem and creates harmony within yourself and with others. Mastery makes you ready to step forward and hold the light for others. Yet even as you gain in Mastery over one subject, you suddenly realize that there are deeper meanings and things to ponder. Beginning the cycle anew.

As Masons we are seekers of knowledge and it is the cycle of renewal that keeps us all engaged. Freemasons, from a newly made Entered Apprentice to a Past Master with a 50 year pin stand in Lodge, shoulder to shoulder united in work, harmony and fulfilling that innermost desire for light. We partake in a privilege that few outside of Masonry get to glimpse and to share. An opportunity to come together as men, consider the more important aspects of life, and of character. To provide mutual support, as each of us takes up the effort of self-improvement.

In closing, we learn and grow as Brothers, and as Brothers there are times a simple word or gesture can help more than we know. To paraphrase Albert Schweitzer, “At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.” Reflect on the times where a kind word, a phone call or some acknowledgement has made a difference.

My thanks to each of you for being there when called upon to give a lift, or provide a spark. I have one request as DDGM, and that is that everyone here take the time to call a fellow absent mason, share some warmth, tell them they are missed, and help rekindle their desire for Light.