



Living Waters Contemplative Life Center | Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless
Tippecanoe just.good.food Garden | Food Justice Site PCUSA
Arts and Science Literacy Camps for Children

Welcome to Worship

January 9, 2021
9:30 am

Gifts of Light



Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.

Today's Worship

Epiphany Sunday

Preparing to Worship...



"Gifts of Light"

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- ◆ Welcome and Community News
- ◆ Readyng Ourselves for Worship - A Reading:

"How the Light Comes" by Jan Richardson

*I cannot tell you  
how the light comes.*

*What I know  
is that it is more ancient  
than imagining.*

*That it travels  
across an astounding expanse  
to reach us.*

*That it loves  
searching out  
what is hidden,  
what is lost,  
what is forgotten  
or in peril  
or in pain.*

*That it has a fondness  
for the body,  
for finding its way*

*toward flesh,  
for tracing the edges  
of form,  
for shining forth  
through the eye,  
the hand,  
the heart.*

*I cannot tell you  
how the light comes,  
but that it does.  
That it will.  
That it works its way  
into the deepest dark  
that enfolds you,  
though it may seem  
long ages in coming*

*or arrive in a shape  
you did not foresee.*

*And so  
may we this day  
turn ourselves toward it.  
May we lift our faces  
to let it find us.  
May we bend our bodies  
to follow the arc it makes.  
May we open  
and open more  
and open still*

*to the blessed light  
that comes.*

<https://www.janrichardson.com/>

◆ Becoming Present to God and Each Other...Our Check-in:

*How Are You as You Arrive...how is it with your spirit?*

*~The Joy of Passing the Peace~*

◆ Gathering as God's People: Our Theme

In coming to the end of Christmastide, we continue to open ourselves to the light: the light of the Divine, the light inside ourselves, and the light we witness within others. As the theologian and civil rights leader Howard Thurman reminds us, now "the work of Christmas begins":

*"The Work of Christmas"*

*When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with  
their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the  
broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the  
nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart.*

The theme "Gifts of Light" explores what light does for us, how we experience and express light, how we share light with one another, how it weaves into our awareness and impacts and shapes our feelings and behaviors. So, certainly light in and of itself is a gift. As I enter this community and begin to get to know individuals, families, and worship groups - I hope to learn what is meaningful to each of you, what matters

most, how this community serves you and how you serve the community, what gifts you carry within you, and what gifts you are developing/growing and sharing with others - realizing ourselves and bringing out the light within us.

I also want to acknowledge our exhaustion, confusion, and pain as it seems new phases of the pandemic continue to develop. In that respect, just a reminder to be gentle with yourself and with others.

The author, storyteller and Jungian psychoanalysis, Clarissa Pinkola Estés reminds us that, *“Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely.”*



- ◆ Gathering Special Music Video  
“Lean in Toward the Light” by Carrie Newcomer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxAUmNjWaIs>

◆ Opening Ourselves to God's Grace



In this gathered time together, may we open ourselves to God's grace; mindful that the Divine presence is with us always and in all ways. May God's presence be illumined for us and may we allow our souls to shine and share that spark with others – enabling each of us to shine forth.

◆ Sharing Our Innermost Lives with God

O God of light and peace, dispel the darkness that shrouds our path. Reveal to us the light we carry and the light that is needed in the world. In the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from our wisdom. Remind us of your love and grace and guide us in being loving and grace-filled with ourselves, with our loved ones and with the stranger. May we lift up our eyes and look around, grateful that you shine upon us. Help us to perceive your light as well as our light and the light emanating from others. Amen.



You may wish to name with God all that is weighing heavy upon you, or you may ask for guidance as you discern way forward, or you may invite the Divine's healing light to surround you as you mindfully sit in the Holy One's presence.

◆ Bible Wisdom Teachings

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

One: Let us hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

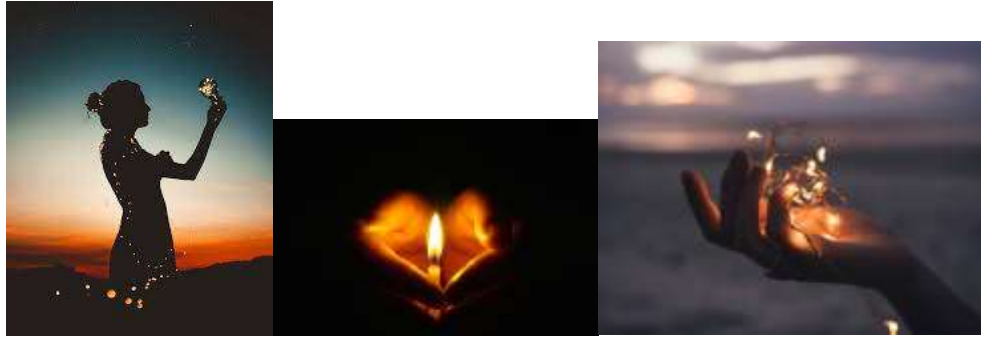
All: Thanks be to our God.

◆ Message

Gifts of Light

“Exploring the Gifts of Light Within and Without...  
Seeing the Light, Being the Light, Sharing the Light”

Rev. Trish Eckert



Special Music Video: “Siyahamba” (“Living in the Light of God”)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDsfi\\_IxT3c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDsfi_IxT3c)

◆ Sharing Our Wisdom

◆ Affirming Our Faith with Intention...Our Prayer

One: Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God,  
the Lord alone.

All: You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
and with all your soul,  
and with all your might.

~Let us quiet ourselves for prayerful reflection~

◆ Community Prayers, Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer



Holy One, we lift up to you our joys and our sorrows – both those we have named and those that we carry silently in our hearts. Reveal to us the light surrounding us and help us to embrace the dark, which enables the light to shine even more brightly. Show us how to ask for help and guide us in helping others. Release us from worry and lead us toward wholeness. We pray to you from our hearts, which are tended within this beloved community. Amen

## RETRANSLATION of The Lord's Prayer (FROM THE ARAMAIC)

All: O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere! Release a space to plant your Presence here. Imagine your possibilities now. Embody your desire in every light and form. Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom. Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults. Help us not forget our Source, Yet free us from not being in the Present. From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering. Amen - May our future actions grow from here!

### ◆ Benediction

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.  
All things break. And all things can be mended.  
Not with time, as they say, but with intention.  
So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.  
The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.  
~L.R. Knost

### ◆ Our Response

All: Now that the worship has ended may the true service begin