



"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

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 16, 2021

9:30 a.m.

*Gifts of Light*



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

**TODAY'S WORSHIP**  
*Second Sunday after the Epiphany*

Preparing To Worship...



***“Gifts of Light”***

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✧ **Welcome and community news**

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

One: Our Mother-Father God  
has made us to be One Body with many members.  
**All: United and uniting. This is our calling.**

One: God calls us to share our diverse gifts  
activated by the one and same Spirit.  
**United and uniting. This is our redemption.**

One: God longs for us to be united in love  
and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.  
**United and uniting. This is our worship.**

One: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship  
to our Holy God, who challenges us  
and calls us to create *the Beloved Community*.

✧ **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**~

## ✧Opening Special Music Video

For opening music this morning, I want to start off with a song in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. day, which will be observed tomorrow, January 17<sup>th</sup>

### [Let Justice Roll Down](#)

## ✧Gathering as God's People: Our Theme

Last week we explored “The Visit of the Wise Men” in the Gospel of Matthew, taking us on their journey to find the Messiah. The reading culminated in Matthew noting that the wise ones were warned in a dream not to return to King Herod and instead, “left for their country by another road.” We reflected on the potential of alternate routes in our own lives.

In preparation for this week when I heard the song, “Let Justice Roll Down,” the lyric “make a new way” made me think about finding another route, another road - inviting us to consider how our lives, our journeys, are like that of the magi. We heard, “Oh children, don't you get weary, walk together, believe in the dream” - and that is just what the wise ones did.

So, we continue with the theme, “Gifts of Light,” but today we will focus on the beloved community as one of those gifts of light. Last week we were paying attention to our experiences of light and how it impacts us, how we express it, share it, and where we observe it. This morning I specifically want to train our attention to our community - to what we each offer to it, what we receive from it, how we might further deepen it - and notice the gifts given to us by those who are called to bring their gifts to bear in the world as they create community among us. In this moment, it is Martin Luther King Jr. who immediately comes to mind. He shared his gifts of wisdom and insight, his capacity to be a student of nonviolence and a teacher of peace, his vision, commitment, and sacrifice. The messages he spoke to us are still painfully relevant today.

And like many of you, on January 6<sup>th</sup> - the day of Epiphany - I was mindful of the anniversary of the insurrection at the capitol, recalling that at this time last year, in the wake of that, the youngest inaugural poet in our history, Amanda Gorman, presented her inaugural poem, “The Hill We Climb.” On that day, she provided so many incredible images and she built in layers of references to our history, to other writers and thinkers and artists - it felt like she was delving into our past and mining the gifts of those who represent the best of ourselves - reminding us of who we are capable of being and what we are capable of doing.

Such prophets and creators provide a plumbline - a straight edge or horizon for us to maintain in our sights as we try to manage the rocky terrain of the times we are living in.

So, in our gathering today, I welcome you to consider: what are your gifts of light? What do you have to offer the beloved community and what does the beloved community offer you?



✧ **Gathering Special Music Video**

[Lean In Toward the Light - By Carrie Newcomer](#)

✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

A blessing by Jan Richardson:

“Blessing of Light”  
Let us bless the light  
and the One who gives  
the light to us.  
Let us open ourselves  
to the illumination  
it offers.  
Let us blaze  
with its  
generous fire.



### ✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Loving God, we ask that you shed light on our confusion and frustration. Guide us as we untangle our wants from our needs. Reveal to us how to attend to others and build in us the capacity to be compassionate to ourselves and others even when we are spread thinly. As we seek your light, help us to remember also what we gain from the dark – how it allows for rest and healing, gestation and waiting. May we shift into a slower pace and rhythm, opening ourselves to discernment and insight. Thank you for your accompaniment, and for knowing what we are carrying even when we are not fully aware of what is weighing heavily upon us or unable to see the joys and gifts that are available to us. Amen.



*As you tap into the Holy One's presence, you may wish to name all that you are carrying, or you may focus on the gifts that are unfolding in your life. You might take this time to open yourself to what you are gaining in this season of darkness and what you hope to discover as you seek the light in the midst of winter.*

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Bible Wisdom Teachings**

Psalm 36:5-10

✧ **Reflection Questions**

Where do you sense steadfast love in these days? When have you experienced abundance and want in this season? What gifts have you perceived in the light or in the dark?

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

✧ **Reflection Questions**

What gifts have been activated in you? What are the gifts of the Beloved Community that support and nurture and inspire you? And what do you bring to the beloved community?

One: May we 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 in the Beloved Community"*

Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ **Special Music Video**

[India Arie - I Am Light \(Lyric Video\)](#)

## ✧Sharing Our Wisdom

### ✧Affirming Our Faith with Intention...Our Prayer

One: You, O God, have created us to be fulfilled in your love.

**All: You create our world and give us life.**

**Your purpose overarches everything we do.**

**You have always been with us.**

**You came to us before we came to you.**

**You reveal your love to us in every moment**

**And are present to every need.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

~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.

Creator God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your transformative love. Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see and know you. Amen.

✧The Lord's Prayer – *paraphrased by Sarah Dylan Breuer*

**All: Loving Creator**

**we honor you,  
and we honor all that you have made.**

**Renew the whole world  
in the image of your love.**

**Give us what we need for today,  
and a hunger to see the whole world  
fed.**

**Strengthen us for what lies ahead;  
heal us from the hurts of the past;  
give us courage to follow your call in  
this moment.**

**For your love is the only power,  
the only home, the only honor we  
need,  
in this world and in the world to  
come.**

**Amen.**

✧**Benediction**

May you be strengthened by God's love and presence  
this day and all your days.

May you grow and share your gifts and your love  
in all the places that so desperately need it.

And may you remain open to transformation by the Source of life, love and hope.  
Amen.

✧**Our Response**

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

