



"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

February 5, 2023

9:30 a.m.

*"Shining Your Light" Rev. Trish Eckert*



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

## ✧Prelude: Zo Trembley

### ✧Welcome and community news

- This morning is Communion Sunday
- Remember we offer other opportunities to gather for worship! We invite you to join us: Sundays 6 pm for Centering Prayer and Mondays 6:30 pm for our Sanctuary Time of Belonging – updated links are on our website.

### ✧Readying Ourselves for Worship

*Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground! Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!*

### ✧A Poem as we Center Ourselves in this Moment

#### *The Winter of Listening* ~David Whyte

No one but me by the  
fire,  
my hands burning  
red in the palms while  
the night wind carries  
everything away outside.

All this petty worry  
while the great cloak  
of the sky grows dark  
and intense  
round every living thing.

All this trying  
to know  
who we are  
and all this  
wanting to know  
exactly  
what we must do.

What is precious  
inside us does not  
care to be known  
by the mind  
in ways that diminish

its presence.

What we strive for  
in perfection  
is not what turns us  
into the lit angel  
we desire.

What disturbs  
and then nourishes  
has everything  
we need.

What we hate  
in ourselves  
is what we cannot know  
in ourselves but  
what is true to the  
pattern  
does not need  
to be explained.

Inside everyone  
is a great shout of joy  
waiting to be born.

And  
here  
in the tumult  
of the night  
I hear the walnut  
above the child's swing  
swaying  
its dark limbs  
in the wind  
and the rain now  
come to  
beat against my window  
and somewhere  
in this cold night  
of wind and stars  
the first whispered  
opening of  
those hidden  
and invisible springs  
that uncoil  
in the still summer air  
each yet  
to be imagined  
rose.

### ✧Becoming Present to God and Each Other ~ Our Check-in

~ The Joy of Passing the Peace ~



✧ Kid's Time

✧ **Gathering as God's People: Light Breaking Through**

As we continue to explore the interplay of light and dark in our lives, today we are invited to reflect on the building blocks that make up our physical selves and contemplate through metaphor how these elements also shape our spiritual lives and the emotional landscapes we navigate every day.

This morning we will sit with the familiar words from Matthew's Gospel in which Jesus reminds us not to hide our light under a bushel. When we are hear that we are the salt and light of the world.

Remember, even in this "ordinary time" between Christmas and Easter, this Sunday is observed through the lens of Epiphany— today is the "5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany." The word itself means appearing or showing forth— it is a season that beckons us to ponder what it is that God desires to manifest through us, and to wrestle with what hinders this. There is much, both within us and without, that works against savoring and shining.



Recognizing and resisting the bushels that threaten the light is a practice and a journey all its own. It can be terrifying, these days, to see the ease with which so many of us accept the dimming, allow the bushels that diminish our light as we give over discernment and freedom in exchange for seeming security.

Let us take this sacred time together, to inhabit the light and shine our light more brightly in a world that so desperately needs it!

✧ **Gathering Hymn 123**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*



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

**ALL: God of love and light, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may share your gifts of grace in every place and every encounter. Amen.**

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Ever present God,

We thank you for always providing us a path to you, even as we wander and struggle. We are grateful for this gathered community – a place where we find each other and find you.

By your grace you give us an eternal purpose.

By your grace you give us everything necessary to fulfill that calling:

Your very self before us, beside us, within us, among us.

You invite us to open our hearts to your abiding love; and so, we do. Amen

✧ **Special Music** *Jesus, Sun and Shield Art Thou* – played by Rosie Rain

✧ **Bible Wisdom Teaching Scripture Matthew 5:13-16**

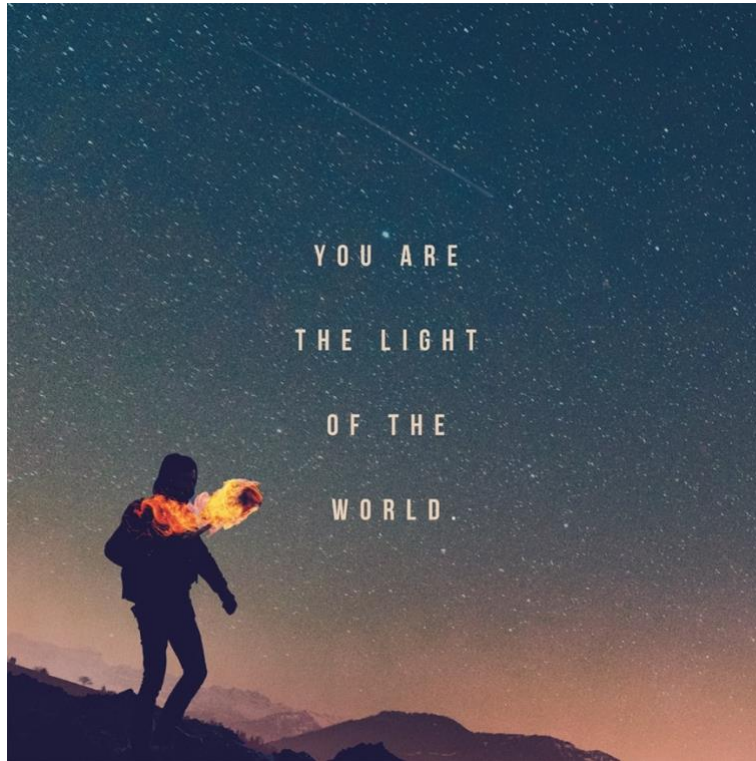
"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Adonai in heaven.

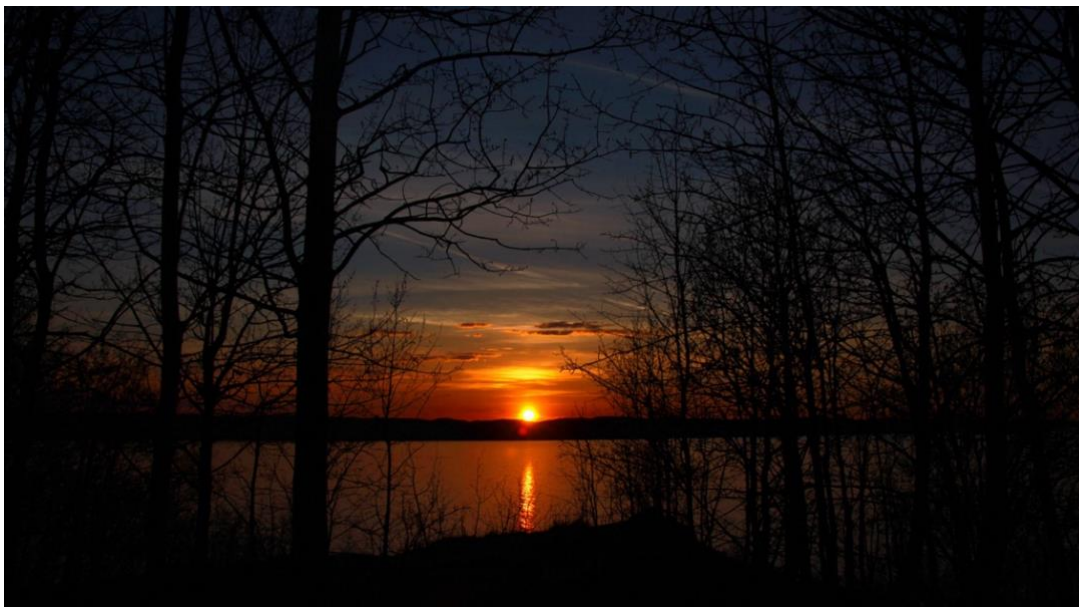
## ✧ Message “Shining Your Light”



### ✧ Reflection Questions

- What causes me to hide my light?
- When do I feel empowered to shine my light?
- How might I shine my light more brightly?
- In what ways can I support others in shining their light?

### ✧ Short period of silent reflection



## ✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn 22** *Bring Forth the Kingdom*

## ✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

God who calls us to be light, to shine  
Remind us what is ours and what is not  
Allow us to embrace the many lessons  
While acknowledging that for all things there is a season  
You call us to love one another as you have loved us  
This love does not cater but liberates  
This love does not patronize but affirms  
This love does not possess but is vulnerable  
This love does not oppress but seeks right relationship  
Help us to hear your Holy Spirit speak through our instincts  
and to feel her wisdom in the energy all around us  
So that we indeed shine through in the ways you have equipped us  
And remain awake to what you have yet imagined, Creator  
May we joyfully respond with renewed passion grounded in love. Amen

## ✧ **Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread Communion of the People**

Salt and light are essential elements for life. And not just our life, but also for the life of the Church in the world. As we receive the cup and the loaf, we consider what it means for Jesus to call us salt and light.

### Welcome

Jesus reminds us that we carry within us fundamental elements of life: salt and light. The first thing God created was light. Like salt, it is essential to life. Light has a purpose – to guide us, to keep us from being afraid, to illuminate what is hidden, to provide warmth.

Just as the suggestion that salt would stop being salty, it seems just as ridiculous that you would light a candle and hide it away or paint a light fixture black. Doing so defeats its purpose for being.

In John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we are the Light of the World. If Jesus is the Light of the World, then how can we be? Maybe Matthew misunderstood Jesus. But if we think back to what else Jesus said in John's gospel, we are reminded that if we abide in Jesus, Jesus abides in us. And when the incarnate Jesus left this world, Jesus didn't leave us orphaned because we received the Holy Spirit.

As we abide in Christ, we become the light of the world. Certainly, we are not Jesus, but our words and actions seek to glorify God. This is what Jesus wants to make clear. It's not that God can't save the world all on God's own, but in God's plan of redemption, we are as essential as salt and light.

Let us give thanks to God.

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, you created the world and all who live in it. As your first act of creation, you said, "Let there be light." There was light, and it was good. You make the sun rise on the good and evil alike, for your love has no prejudice. It is not dependent on who we are but is steadfast and true because that is who you are.

Jesus, Light of the World, you came into the world so we may have life. In the mystery of God, you call us to be light in the world because life is something to be shared. With your compassion for the sick, the poor, and the outcast, you taught us what love is. In the glory of your resurrection, you demonstrated how far love will go. Love, life, light - you have given us a purpose in the world.

Holy Spirit, light within us, you enable us to be the fragrance of life and the salt of the earth. You lead our hearts so that we may season the world with grace. In the same way, you gather us at this Table to sustain us so that we may be salt and light in the world.

Ever thankful, we pray that you would sprinkle salt on this meal we share today. May it renew our communion in Christ and with one another. With joy, we celebrate that this meal is not limited to this time and place. And so, as you bind us together with the cup and the loaf, we give thanks that this Table extends to every cathedral, sanctuary, home, and group where two or three gather in your name.

With the boldness of those who know the love of God, the light of Christ, and the saltiness of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in the prayer you taught us, as we pray together:

✧**The Lord's Prayer**  
**Our Father, who is in heaven,**  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**  
**Thy kingdom come.**  
**Thy will be done**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we**  
**forgive our debtors.**  
**And lead us not into temptation**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For Thine is the kingdom, and the**  
**power, and the glory, forever.**  
**Amen**

### Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

As Jesus sat down to eat with his disciples, he took the bread, broke it, and gave thanks. He then passed it to his disciples, saying, "Eat! This is my body broken for you." Next, he took the cup, and after he had blessed it, he gave it to the disciples and said, "Drink! This is the blood of the new covenant. My blood shed for you."

You *are* the salt of the earth.

You *are* the light of the world.

These are holy statements - and they are impossible statements. But when faced with the impossible, Jesus reminds us that in him, all things are possible. So, come: eat and drink so that body and soul may be nourished so that we may go out and bear the ministry of Jesus into the world.

**All: We are ready. The Table is set. And we remember. Your Spirit is life. Through this faithful act of communing, You join us more deeply to Yourself, to Your people here and to all Your people. In deepest gratitude, we imbibe grace!**



### Communion of the People

#### Prayer after Communion

Faithful and loving God, you created salt within the earth to protect and heal; to cure and add flavor to the food we eat. When you created our bodies, you put that salt in us. In you, we are the salt of the earth.

You created light to warm the world so that life could exist and find order. You came to us as light so that we would not be overcome by the darkness. You place that light in us and call us to be the light of the world.



As we reflect on these mysteries, we give you thanks for the sustenance you have provided at your Table. May our light so shine before people that you will be glorified and the whole world would join us in our praise of you. Amen.

Liturgy excerpted from Rev. Michelle Henrichs

“Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of Invitation to Celebrate and Experience the Love of God”

✧ **Benediction** –

May our love be like salt  
that makes life tasty and worthwhile.

May our living be a light  
to those who live in darkness.

May our community  
be a city of light to be seen from afar  
as signs that God lives and works  
within and among us.

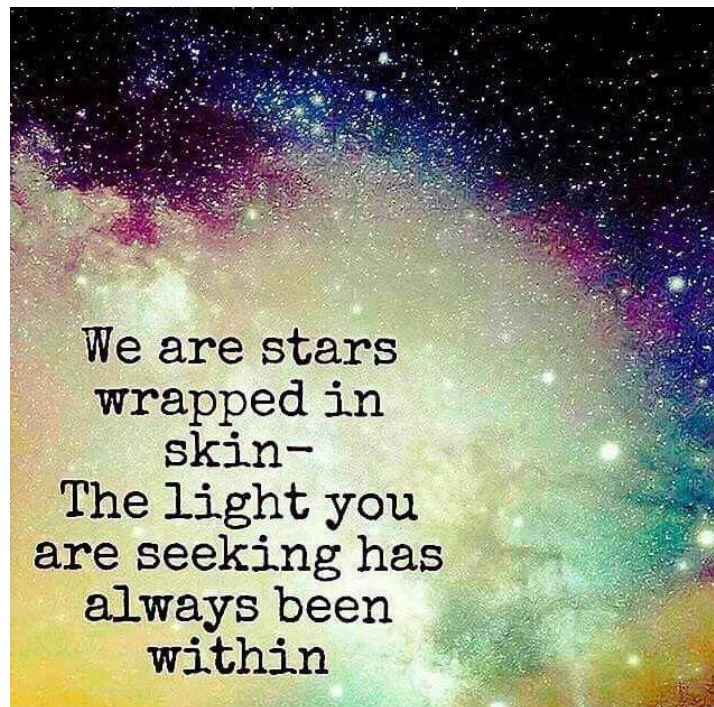
Amen.

*Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.*

✧ **Our Response:**

***Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your Word lives on in us.***

✧ **Postlude**



We are stars  
wrapped in  
skin-  
The light you  
are seeking has  
always been  
within

~Rumi

