



GATHERING PRAYER:

Begin this Sunday's worship with a time of silence. Our lives are far noisier than wind, fire, or earthquake. In a great paradox, God speaks to us in sheer silence. Use this chance to listen as you pray.

Loving God, Wind, flood, fire, earthquake, and storm: each event reminds us of how little we are. Arguments at work, grumbling at home, disfunction in our systems of government: each event reminds us of how little we control and how much we fear. Help us, Lord, that we might listen for your voice in the least likely of places. And help us, Lord, that we might hear.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ I am the light of the world:
Those that follows me shall not walk in
darkness, but shall have the light of life. - *John 8:12*
- ❖ God's first priority is to overcome darkness: God creates light. Rather than
destroying darkness, God relegates it to night-time: it too becomes part of the
good, godly world, and is declared so by God. Naming night and day show God's
mastery of both.
- ❖ If your religion teaches you to hate other people, and that you are better than
other certain people, you haven't joined a religion, you've joined a terrorist
organization. – *Don Freeman*
- ❖ If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading. -*Lao Tzu*

PRAISE SONG: *Those Who Dream*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Follow the star;

All: Kneel to worship.

One: Bring the best gifts -

All: Bring yourself.

One: Come to the water;

All: Come to joy.

One: Be raised to new life.

All: Become God's beloved.

One: Come to the table;

All: Here, taste the Bread of Life,

One: Here, be filled with the cup of blessing.

All: Rise, renewed and healed.

One: Come, follow the star to new birth, touch the water of life, sit at the table of holiness, and sing your praise.

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

All: Divine Light, illuminating our shadows and darkness, we turn to you in hope and fear. We long to be freed from times of bewildering darkness, when depression and despair haunt our days and perplex our nights. We hope for clear answers and readily marked paths. Yet we fear your refiner's fire that illumines our bad choices, our cautious spirits, our angry hearts. When you look deep, we feel shame for what we have done and for things we have left undone.

Loving God, Healing Light, remind us that you desire not our punishment, but our salvation. Your light is gracious and brings insight and renewal, hope and blessing. Restore our courage and make us your light for others. Amen

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: God has claimed us and will not let us go. There is no one, there is no thing that can keep God from forgiving us, loving us, and healing us.

**All: Loved, we can love the unlovable;
graced, we can be a blessing to others;
forgiven, we can forgive those who have hurt us.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CONFESSION RESPONSE: Light Dawns on a Weary World
(music at end of bulletin)

THE LESSONS: Isaiah 60:1-6

“Get out of bed, Jerusalem!

Wake up. Put your face in the sunlight.

God's bright glory has risen for you.

The whole earth is wrapped in darkness,
all people sunk in deep darkness,
But God rises on you,
his sunrise glory breaks over you.
Nations will come to your light,
kings to your sunburst brightness.
Look up! Look around!
Watch as they gather, watch as they approach you:
Your sons coming from great distances,
your daughters carried by their nannies.
When you see them coming you'll smile—big smiles!
Your heart will swell and, yes, burst!
All those people returning by sea for the reunion,
a rich harvest of exiles gathered in from the nations!
And then streams of camel caravans as far as the eye can see,
young camels of nomads in Midian and Ephah,
Pouring in from the south from Sheba,
loaded with gold and frankincense,
preaching the praises of God.
And yes, a great roundup
of flocks from the nomads in Kedar and Nebaioth,
Welcome gifts for worship at my altar
as I bathe my glorious Temple in splendor.

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:
It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,
no longer bringing up the rear.
From you will come the leader
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

OUR *Welcome* IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Certain. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner.
Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or
racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning.
Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled.
Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time.
On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker.
Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower
of Jesus. Regular attendee. Occasional attendee. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box.
Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe
in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus
Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image
and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and
way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light
and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love.
We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure
to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry. Saint. Sinner. Democrat.
Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering.
We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed.
We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.**

COME *as you are.*

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017



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LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

Mary Louise Bringle

TEMPLE OF PEACE
William P. Rowan

1. Light dawns on a wea - ry world when
2. Love grows in a wea - ry world when
3. Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when

eyes be - gin to see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty.
hun - gry hearts find bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed.
crea - tures, once for - lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born.

Light dawns on a wea - ry world: the
Love grows in a wea - ry world: the
Hope blooms in a wea - ry world: the

prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes. The trees shall
prom - ised green of E - den comes.

clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and

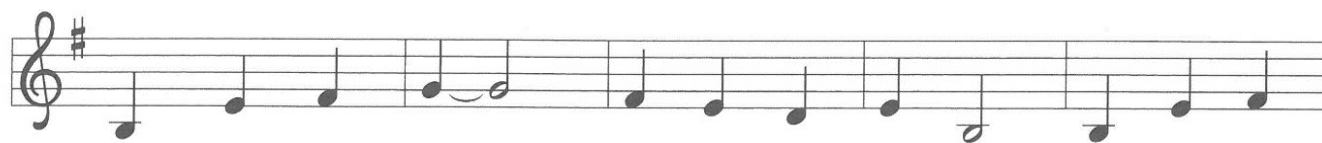
moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing! We shall go

out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the

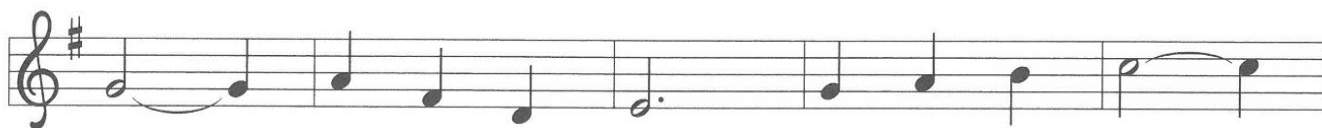
world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Christ, Be Our Light

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1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.