



Arise and shine for your light has come —ISAIAH 60:1

JANUARY 24, 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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.

We come to worship you and praise your name, O God. You created us with the ability to think and to make decisions, including the choice to change. Open our hearts to your word today, so that we may see where our ways are leading us in the wrong direction. Fill us with your Spirit, so that we may with courage make better choices about our lives. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ There is light if only we are brave enough to see it – if only we are brave enough to BE it. - *Amanda Gorman*
- ❖ I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. - *Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- ❖ We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing God directly just as God knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that ending: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love. - *Saint Paul - 1 Corinthians 13:12-13*

PRAISE SONG: *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* (music at end of bulletin)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Let us worship our God who is with us in the midst of life.

All: We gladly offer our praises to our God who goes with us.

One: Sometimes it seems that life is constantly changing.

All: In every changing event, God invites us to change for the better.

One: Our God is not content to let us wander aimlessly.

All: Our God calls us to change course so that we are headed for life and wholeness.

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

One: Let us confess to God and before one another our sins. Especially we confess our reluctance to move beyond our lifelong behaviors and understandings and to faithfully “lean in” to new beginnings.

Verse: Lord, Help Me Keep My Life in Balance (music at end of bulletin)

All: We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. We know that our behavior is not always what it needs to be and that our choices are not always wise. Far too often we choose a path that leads to harm for ourselves and for those around us. We choose things that break us and our relationships, instead of choosing the things that heal and unify. Forgive us and renew us in your Spirit, that we may become what you created us to be.

Verse: Lord, Help Me Keep My Life in Balance (music at end of bulletin)

All: Divine Light, uncovering our shadows and darkness, we turn to you in hope and fear. We long to be freed from times of confusing darkness, when depression and despair haunt our days and trouble our nights. We pray for clearer answers and creative new directions.

Verse: Lord, Help Me Keep My Life in Balance (music at end of bulletin)

All: Light of truth, we are quick to claim our place as your children, but we are slow to grow up. Finding ourselves to be a part of your family, we are content to stay as we are. We forget that we have been called to a way and to an ever-expanding reign. Forgive us and empower us with your Spirit to stretch ourselves as we more fully realize your reign in our lives and in all our relationships

Verse: Lord, Help Me Keep My Life in Balance (music at end of bulletin)

All: 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

THE LESSONS:

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Next, GOD spoke to Jonah a second time: “Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They’re in a bad way and I can’t ignore it any longer.”

This time Jonah started off straight for Nineveh, obeying GOD’s orders to the letter.

Nineveh was a big city, very big—it took three days to walk across it.

Jonah entered the city, went one day’s walk and preached, “In forty days Nineveh will be smashed.”

The people of Nineveh listened, and trusted God. They proclaimed a citywide fast and dressed in burlap to show their repentance. Everyone did it—rich and poor, famous and obscure, leaders and followers.....

God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. He *did* change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn’t do.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I do want to point out, friends, that time is of the essence. There is no time to waste, so don’t complicate your lives unnecessarily. Keep it simple—in marriage, grief, joy, whatever. Even in ordinary things—your daily routines of shopping, and so on. Deal as sparingly as possible with the things the world thrusts on you. This world as you see it is fading away.

Mark 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: “Time’s up! God’s kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message.”

Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, “Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.” They didn’t ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.

A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee’s sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.

MESSAGE: “Light Brings Clarity”

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *God of the Movements and Martyrs*
(music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, who art 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: "There is light if only we are brave enough to see it – if only we are brave enough to BE it."

God has given you a new identity and a holy call.
Receive God's gift, unwrap it, savor its surprise.
Be confident of your release,
Be encouraged in your growth,
Be empowered to shine.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *Lead Kindly Light*

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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Here I Am, Lord

1. "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2. "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3. "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin - est bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?" Here I
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you
call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you
lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Lord, Help Me Keep My Life in Balance

Lord, help me keep my life in bal - ance. Help me
fo - cus on you, Lord, in my work and my play.

Lord, help me keep my life in bal - ance.

You, Lord, are my hope, my strength for the day.

God of the Movements and Martyrs

1. God of the move-ments and mar-tyrs, God of the pow-er-less
 2. Now it's our turn to do jus-tice, hum-bly we rise to the
 3. God of the cir-cle that holds us, God of the ones pushed a-

child, God of the hurt and the hope-less and un-rec-on-
 day, give us the strength and the wis-dom to walk in your
 way, we will reach out to our neigh-bors, in your name we'll

ciled, - God of the just and the faith-ful,
 way, - Gath-er the loaves and the fish-es,
 say: No mat-ter your creed or your coun-try, no

God of the night and the day, - God of the whole of cre-
 share un-til all have been fed, - walk in com-pas-sion and
 mat-ter the hue of your skin, your age, who you love, or the

a-tion, in your name we pray;
 mer-cy, by love we'll be led,
 bod-y your soul was born in, no

Man-y have fol-lowed the sav-ior
 stand-ing in cir-cles sur-round-ing,
 mat-ter the plac-es you're bro-ken, no

in-to the face of the storm, - strength-ened by long gen-er-
 all hold-ing hands while we pray, when pow-ers bear down on the
 mat-ter the things you have done, - lay down that weight on the

a-tions, by love they were formed. In base-ments of tall stee-pled
 help-less, we'll stand in the way. - God of the worn and the
 al-tar, a new day's be-gun. - You are a child of the

church-es, in shad-ows of fenc-es and walls, in
 wound-ed, - let us be healed by the truth, when
 mak-er, - you are be-lov-ed and known, -

al-leys and hall-ways of pow-er, they an-swered your call.
 door-ways are blocked, we will low-er our friends through the roof.
 join us in work of the kin-dom, we wel-come you home. (Repeat last line v.3)

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 attender. Occasional attender. 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.*

