



JANUARY 31, 2021
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Pastoral Welcome and Announcements

Thoughts for the Day:

- ❖ *God's love is a candle in the dark no matter how gloomy our life may be. Just one little touch of God's love is enough to bring warmth and light. - Anonymous*
- ❖ *"Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting." - Mother Teresa*

Call to Worship:

One: For people in darkness,

All: Christ is a comforting light.

One: For people in despair,

All: Christ is the hope.

One: For people grieving,

All: Christ is a comfort.

One: For people burdened,

All: Christ is a friend to share the load.

One: For people anxious,

All: Christ is a loving hug.

One: For all people gathered here,

All: Christ brings warmth to the chill of our lives.

One: Come and share the light of Christ.

All: This love was meant to warm and comfort all.

Song: *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine* (music at end of bulletin)

Our Confession:

O God, you are the Holy One, and your faithfulness is constant. Forgive us when we spurn your love, turning from your open embrace to run to the things we think will bring comfort. In your mercy, bring us back to your side, to the arms that ache to hold us and the love that longs to heal us. Help us to seek comfort in the light of your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Confession Response: Amazing Grace (music at end of bulletin)

Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Sermon: Afraid of the Dark

Message Response: All Through the Night (music at end of bulletin)

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending Out:

Leader: May the blessings of God warm you like the sun.

May the love of Christ comfort you like a light in the dark.

May the joy of the Spirit raise you to new heights and make you instruments of light and hope.

God comfort you and grant you peace.

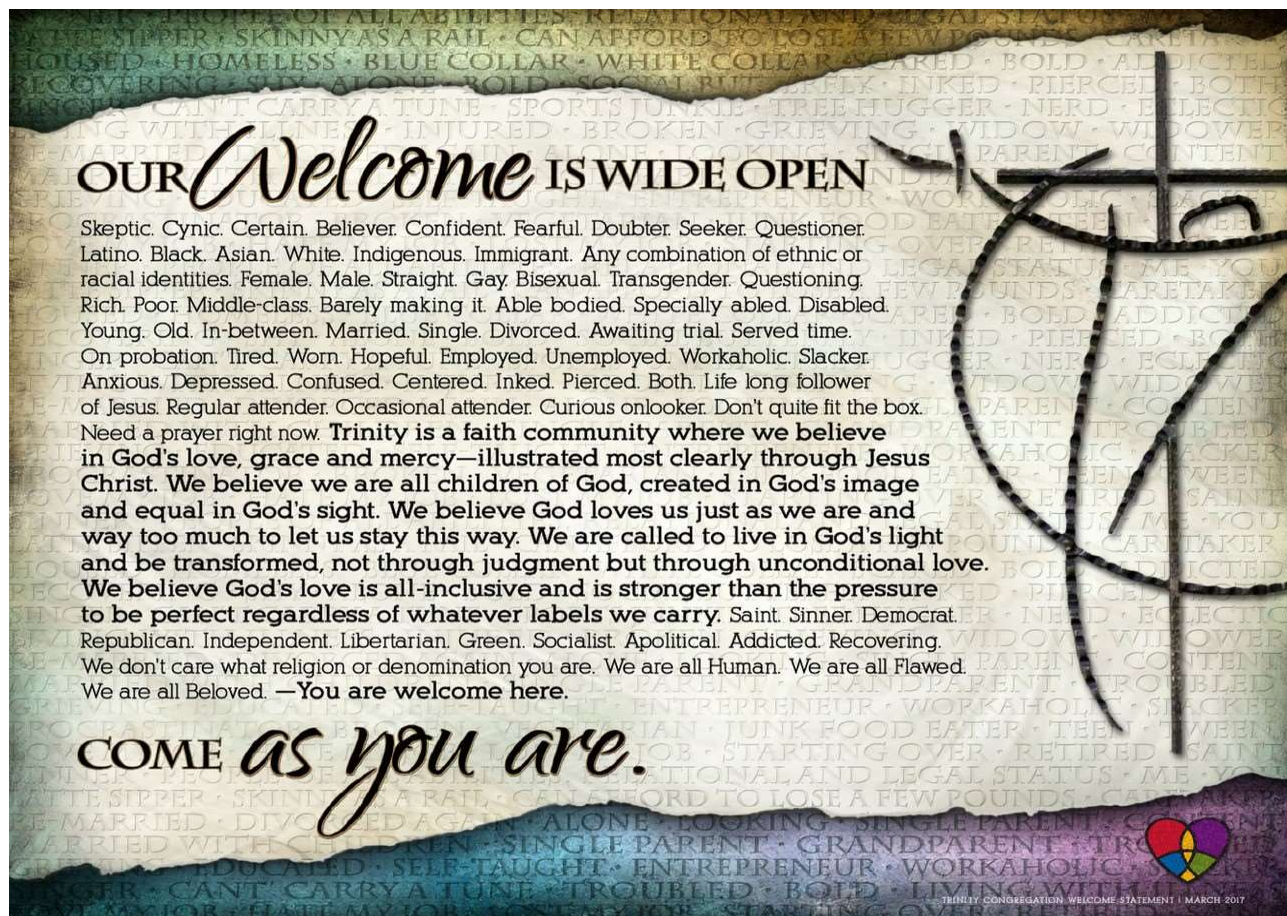
Amen.

Song: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (music at end of bulletin)*

The Dismissal:

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

774

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms?



what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

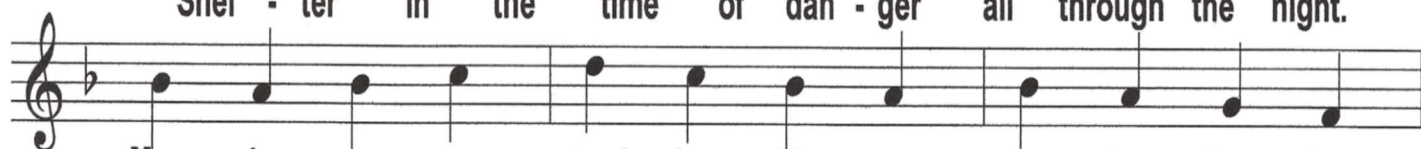
All Through the Night



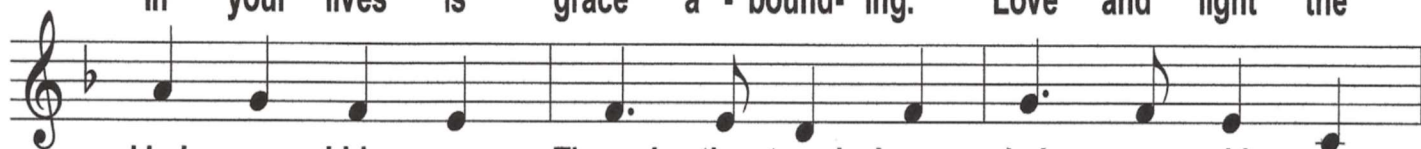
1. Go, my friends, and hope de - fend you all through the night.
2. Walk the streets and bus - y high - ways all through the night.
3. Wash the feet of friend and strang - er all through the night.



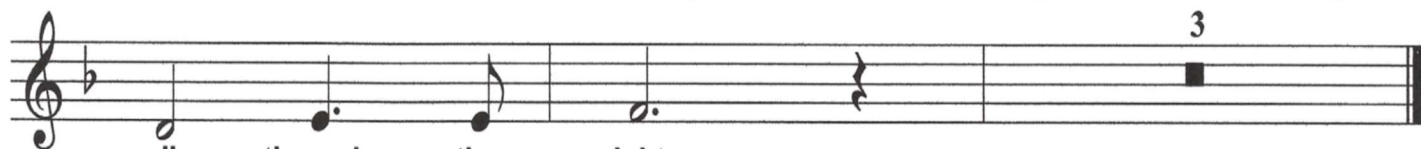
May she peace and cour - age send you all through the night.
Trudge the dark and lone - ly by - ways all through the night.
Shel - ter in the time of dan - ger all through the night.



May she ev - er stand be - side you, in her lov - ing
Touch the sor - row and the sad - ness, dance with those who
In your lives is grace a - bound - ing. Love and light the

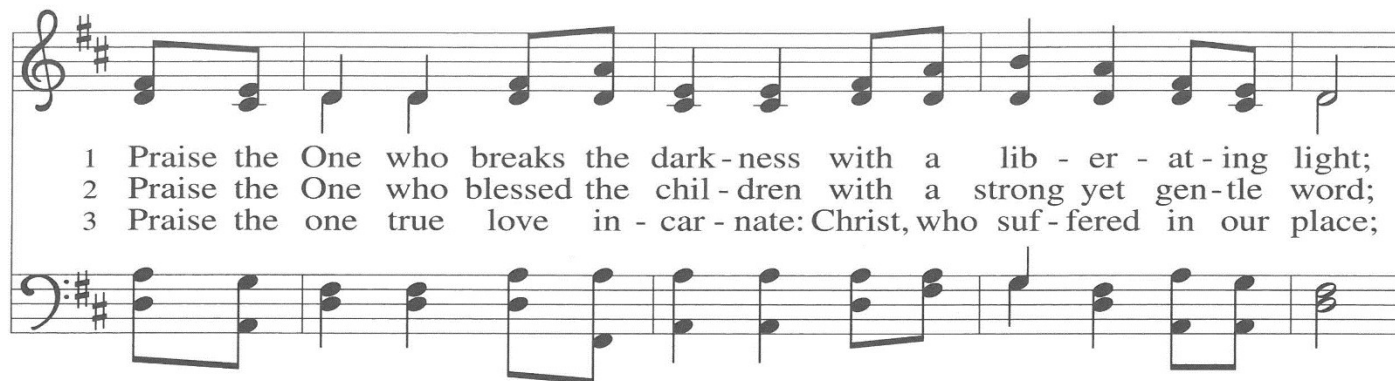


kind - ness hide you. Through the treach - 'rous dark - ness guide you
long for glad - ness. Be the com - fort in the mad - ness
night con - found - ing. In your souls the song is sound - ing

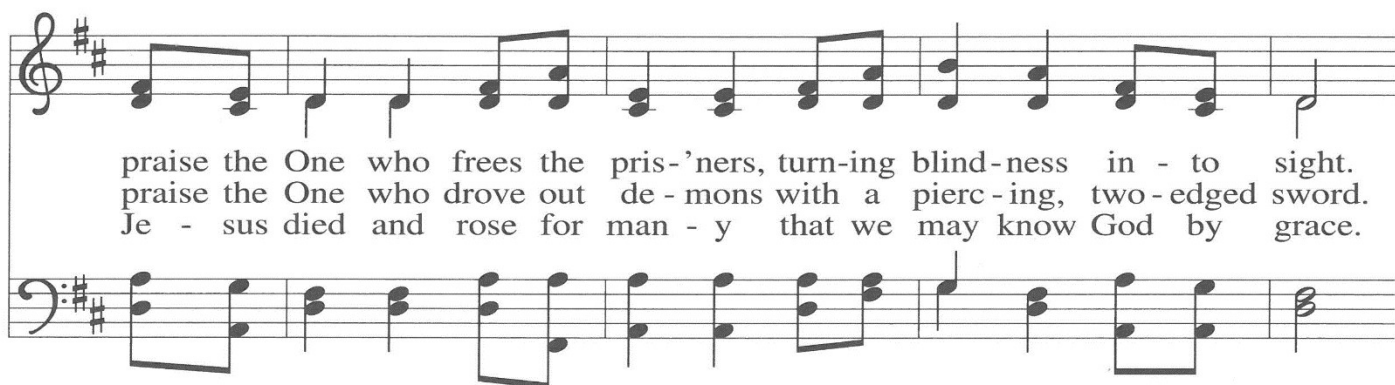


all through the night.
all through the night.
all through the night.

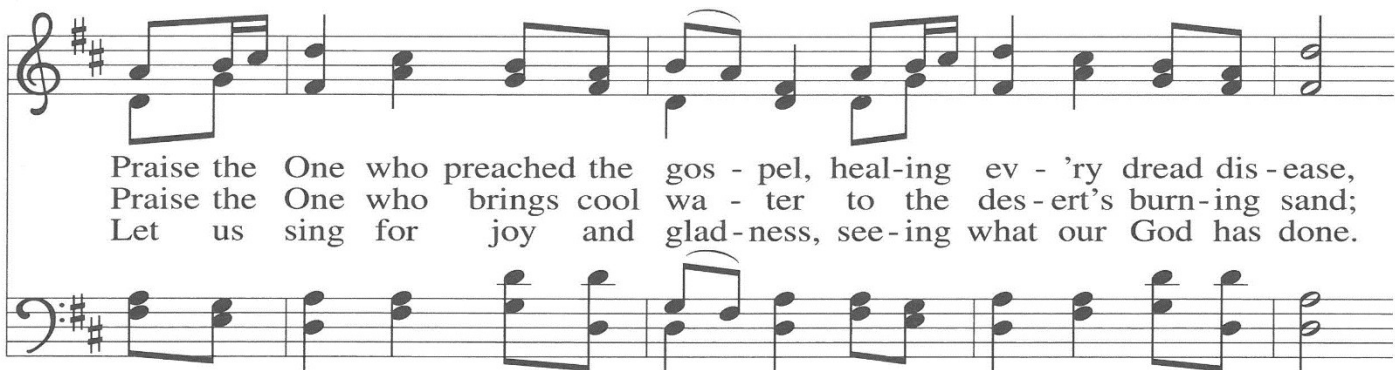
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 843



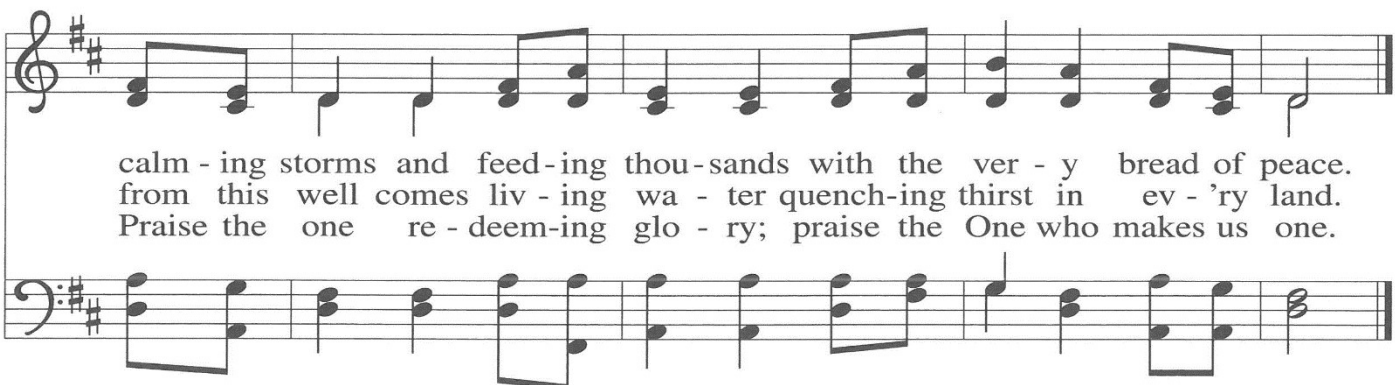
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

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