



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.*
- ❖ *The desert fathers and mothers, the mystics, the saints ... all were people who had tasted enough light that they could risk the darkness. - Unknown*

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.

PRAISE SONG: "Changed for Good" (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

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.

Leader: The light of God's love that comes in Jesus has set us free from darkness. Let us then live in the light each and every day.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *"Take My Life" (music at end of bulletin)*

THE READING: **Isaiah 60:1-4a**

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ "Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;

THE GOSPEL: **Matthew 2:1-12**

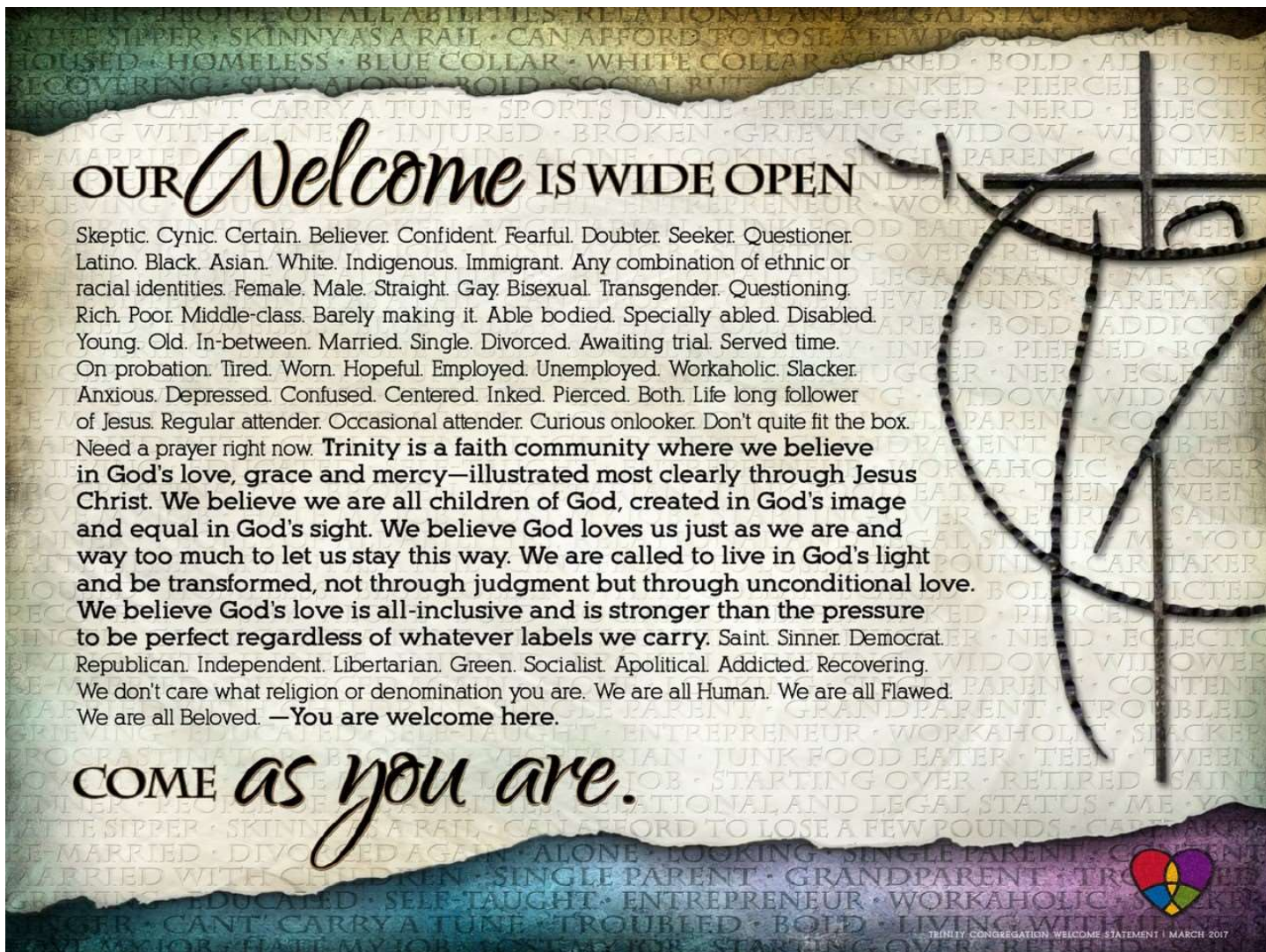
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're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

³⁻⁴ 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?"

⁵⁻⁶ 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."

⁷⁻⁸ 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-



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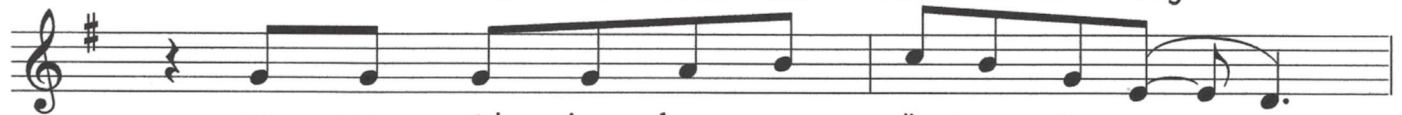
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Changed for Good



1.No more watch - ing from the top of a tree;
2.Light the lamps and let the par - ty be - gin;
3&4.Time to break the chains that bound me so long.



no more watch - ing from a dis - tance to see;
o - pen doors and let the peo - ple come in.
There's no way that I can right all my wrongs.



love is here and love is call - ing to me;
I am miles a - way from where I have been.
Here I start and if it takes my life long,



I'm be - ing changed for good.

*2nd and 3rd time to Bridge
Last time to Coda*



Bridge

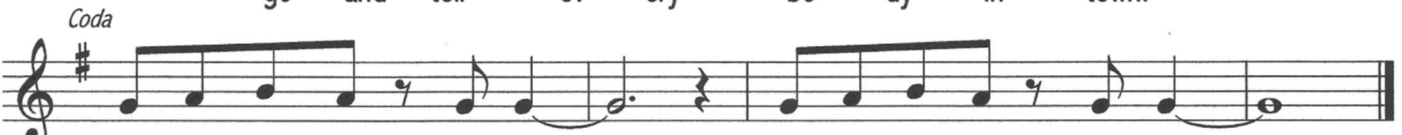
Here's my pro - mise, here's my vow, things are chang - ing,



start - ing now; I was lost, now I'm found,



go and tell ev - ery - bo - dy in town. *To Verse 3 and 4*



Coda

I'm be - ing changed for good; mak - ing a change for good.

ELW 583 Take My Life, That I May Be

Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;
let them flow in cease - less praise.

1. Take my hands and let them move
2. Take my sil - ver and let my gold,
3. Take my voice and let me sing
4. Take my will and make it thine;

at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite - would I for long - with my er - hold;
al - ways, shall on - ly no long - er King;
it shall be no long - er mine;

take my feet in - and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect them use ev - 'ry
take my lips, and let them be use be filled with
take my heart, and it is thine own; it shall

beau - ti - ful for thee
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

Build Your Kingdom Here

1. Come, set Your rule and reign in our hearts a -
 2. (We) seek Your King - dom first. We hun - ger and we
 3. (Un) - leash Your King - dom's pow'r, reach - ing the near and

gain. In - crease in us, we pray. Un - veil why we're made. Come
 thirst; re - fuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize. To
 far. No force of hell can stop Your beaut - y chang - ing hearts. You

set our hearts a - blaze with hope, like wild - fire in our
 see the cap - tive's heart re - leased; the hurt, the sick, the
 made us for much more than this. A - wake the King - dom

ver - y souls. Ho - ly Spir - it, come, in - vade us now_.
 poor at peace. We lay down our lives for Heav - en's cause_.
 seed in us. Fill us with the strength and love of Christ_.

1. Sing v. 2 2.,3. To chorus

We are Your church. We need Your pow'r in us. 2. We
 We are Your church. We pray re - vive this earth.
 We are Your church. We are the hope on earth.

Build Your King - dom here. Let the dark - ness fear. Show Your
 might - y hand. Heal our streets and land_. Set Your church on
 fire. Win this na - tion back. Change the at - mos - phere. Build Your
 King - dom here_, we pray. 2 1. Sing v. 3 2. Repeat chorus

3. Un - Build Your

Dance Together

1. We have gath - ered from far and near. Lord, you've
2. We have trou - bles, we all have flaws We're not
drawn us, You've brought us here Friends al - read - y and friends to
wor - thy to heed your call We cry, "Leave us! Lord, go a
be. Sis - ters, bro - thers, be - com - ing fam - il - y. Let us
- way." But you say, Take my hand and dance with me to - day!"
dance, dance to - geth - er, with love and laugh - ter and with - out fear. Hold - ing
hands with the Cre - a - tor at the cross - roads of our years. Dance to -
geth - er down the road to God knows where. where.
So here's the mo - ment dis - tilled in time to leave this
fish - ing and these boats be - hind Trade things fa - mil - iar for things un
known. Lord we of - fer up our lives, and fol - low down Your road, Let us
dance, dance to - geth - er, with love and laugh - ter, and with - out

- continued on next page -

fear. Hold - ing hands with the Cre - a - tor at the
cross - roads of our years. Dance to - geth - er down the
road. For ev - er on Your road_ Dance to -
geth - er down the road to God knows where._