



PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY WELCOME

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ Love all of God's creation, both the whole of it and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love animals, love plants, love each thing. If you love each thing, you will perceive the mystery of God in things. Once you have perceived it, you will begin tirelessly to perceive more and more of it every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an entire, universal love. - Brian McClaren
- ❖ Yes, God loves you this very day and always. God is not waiting to love you until you have overcome your weaknesses and bad habits. God loves you today with a full understanding of your struggles. God is aware that you reach up to Him in heartfelt and hopeful prayer. God knows of the times you have held onto the fading light and believed-even in the midst of growing darkness. God knows of your sufferings. God knows of your remorse for the times you have fallen short or failed. And still God loves you.
- Dieter F. Uchtdorf

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: Live as 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, forgiven, 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: *This Little Light of Mine*

- 1: I'm gonna' let it shine...
- 2: Hide it under a bushel, No!...
- 3: Everywhere I go...
4. Building up the world...

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 every day.

**CONFESSION RESPONSE: *Darkness Cannot Drive Out Darkness*
(music at end of bulletin)**

THE READING: *Isaiah 60:1-3*

"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.

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-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”⁹⁻¹⁰ Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.¹² In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

MESSAGE: “*Shine?*”

Pastor Cristy Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *We Are Called (music at end of bulletin)*

THE PRAYERS:

P: As God’s people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the human family, and all of creation.

(Petitions end: “God of mercy”; “Hear our prayer.”)

P. All these things and whatever you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ, who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

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: 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: *Let This Be the Time (music at end of bulletin)*

THE DISMISSAL:

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 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.

TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017

Darkness Cannot Drive Out Darkness

Dark - ness can - not drive out dark - ness; on - ly light can clear the way.

Ha - tred can - not drive out ha - tred; on - ly love keeps hate at bay.

On - ly good-ness breaks through e - vil. Life a - lone drives death a - way.

We Are Called

1. Come!
2. Come!
3. Sing!

Live in the light!
O - pen a your new heart!
Sing a new song!

Shine Show Sing
with your.....
of that

the joy and the love of the
mer - cy day to all those you
great day when all will be

Lord! We are called to be
fear! We are will called reign, to and we'll
one! God will

light for the king - dom, to live in the
hope for for the the hope - less so ha - tred and
walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

free - dom of the cit - y of God!
blind - ness..... will be..... of no more.
broth - ers..... u - nit - ed in love.

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are
called to love ten - der - ly; we are called to
serve one an - oth - er to walk
hum - bly with God.

5

Let This Be the Time

Verse 1:

L: When the song of your people rings out from each steeple, (C: let this be the time.)

L: When our praise and devotion set lives into motion, (C: let this be the time.)

L: When the heart of our labor promotes love of neighbor, (C: let this be the time.)

L: When the care for each nation brings peace to creation, (C: let this be the time.) CHORUS

Verse 2:

L: When we see in each face those we need to embrace, (C: let this be the time.)

L: When we turn and forgive those the world won't let live, (C: let this be the time.)

L: When our care for creation becomes our vocation, (C: let this be the time.)

L: When our deeds and good actions become our true passion, (C: let this be the time.) CHORUS

Verse 3:

L: When the voice of the Spirit transforms all who hear it, (C: let this be the time.)

L: When we turn from obsession and needless possessions, (C: let this be the time.)

L: When we give recognition to the one, true physician, the healer who bears all our pain,
when we stop and remember that you are our God, (C: let this be the time.) CHORUS

CHORUS

Come and tear down the old ways and build up the new
be the God of our promise; all hope rests in
you. With the fire of your Spirit, blaze a kingdom of
truth. Prepare us for action, let nothing dis-
tract us from you! Let this be the time!

The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing or emphasis.

This Little Light of Mine. Text and music: African American Spiritual. Public Domain.

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