



## **PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **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: “We Three Kings” vs. 1 & 5**

*We three kings of Orient are: Bearing gifts, we traverse afar -  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

*O\_\_ star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise King and God and Sacrifice;  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Earth to heav’n replies.*

*O\_\_ star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

**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: “Changed for Good” (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.  
<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
<sup>3</sup> 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.”

<sup>3-4</sup> 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?”

<sup>5-6</sup> 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.”

<sup>7-8</sup> 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.”<sup>9-10</sup> 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!

<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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:** “Who would you be in the Nativity Story?” - *Pastor Cristy Schoob*

**MESSAGE RESPONSE:** “One Brick at a Time” (*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, 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: "Shalom" (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

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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*



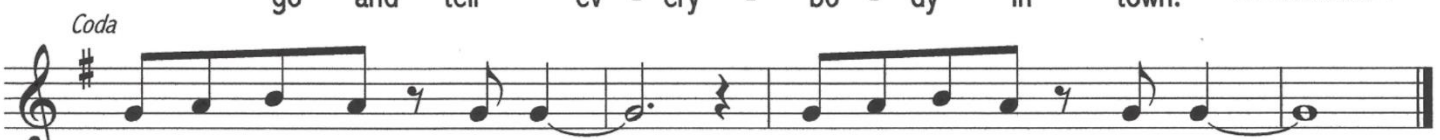
Here's my pro - mise, here's my vow, things are chang - ing,



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



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



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

## One Brick At A Time

1. We lay one brick at a time.  
We take one step at a time.  
A revolution of the heart  
Building a new world one brick at a time.
2. We throw one stone in the pond.  
Its rings go far beyond  
'til all God's creatures are circled in  
Building a new world one brick at a time. (chorus, 1st ending)
3. We mix our dreams and our tears  
To make the mortar strong.  
Binding together earth, sky and song,  
Building a new world one brick at a time.
4. We hear the cries of the earth.  
We feel the pain of the poor.  
We challenge the systems of greed and war,  
Building a new world one brick at a time. (chorus, 1st ending)
5. What we do might seem small  
And we may never know.  
The smallest things when done with love  
Multiply and grow one brick at a time. (chorus, 2nd ending)
6. We lay one brick at a time.  
We take one step at a time.  
A revolution of the heart  
Building a new world one brick at a time,  
One brick at a time.

*Chorus*

The old world falls a - part\_ to make way\_\_\_ for the  
new. Don't be a - fraid and don't lose heart.  
Love is break - ing through. (Sing v. 3 or 5)  
through. Oh, Love is break - ing through. (Sing v. 6)

Shalom

We will seek the sha - lom of the cit - y. We will  
 work with each oth - er hand in hand. We will  
 build and we will plant. We will pray and we will dream. Come, sha -  
 lom, to our cit - ies, to our land, to our land. We will  
 build and we will plant. We will pray and we will dream. Come, sha -  
 lom, to our cit - ies, to our land. *Fine* 2

1. Seek - ing change that will last down the a - ges, till our  
 2. We'll put hands to the work set be - fore us. All our

cit - ies will blos - som a - gain. Seek - ing hope in these  
 tal - ents and gifts we will bring. Man - y faiths, man - y

streets filled with weep - ing, health and heal - ing where now there is pain.  
 cul - tures to - geth - er till our streets with glad mu - sic will ring.

Seek - ing strengths that can build new to - mor - rows,  
 Come and join in this ho - ly en - deav - or.

for we know they are here to be found.  
 In this work there's a place for us all

We will love God with soul, mind, and bod - y,  
 bring - ing peace and good will to our cit - y;

to our neigh - bors in love we'll be bound!  
 this our dream, this our pray'r, this our call!