

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



Shine by Mike Moyers

February 8th, 2026
Portage Lake United Church

Welcome and Announcements

We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- The Spring meeting of the Congregation/Corporation will be held on today following worship. The Annual Report will be presented, new Consistory members will be approved, and the 2026 PLUC budget will be accepted.
- There is a new Sunday morning volunteer signup sheet on the table in the lounge. Consider volunteering in a new way this year!
- Beth has officially resigned her position as Office Manager/ Financial Secretary. She wants to thank everyone for their support these last almost twenty years. It has been an honor to work with all of you.
- Angel Mission needs: Canned Veggies
- Are there any other announcements?



*Liturgical Color: Green
Lectionary Year A*



Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Greeters: Judy Albee
Reader: Ann Campbell
Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar
Coffee: Biruta Lowther and Judy Albee
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen





Christ our Light

MEDITATION AND PRELUDE

Suffering causes the mirror to crack.
As the pieces fall away, we see what
is hidden behind.

From: *Toward God*, by Michael Casey

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

We are salt for the earth.

We are a light for the world.

Just as no one hides a lamp away,

we will offer the world what only we can give.

In shining our lights, we will remember:

Ours is a wisdom not our own making.

Grateful for the Spirit's enlightenment,

we seek the mind of the crucified Christ.



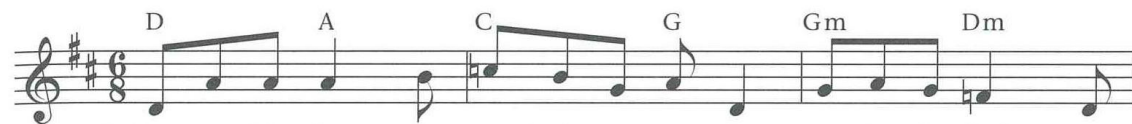
Blessing of Salt, Blessing of Light © Jan Richardson

✚ HYMN “Here in This Place (Gather Us In)” #8 GREEN

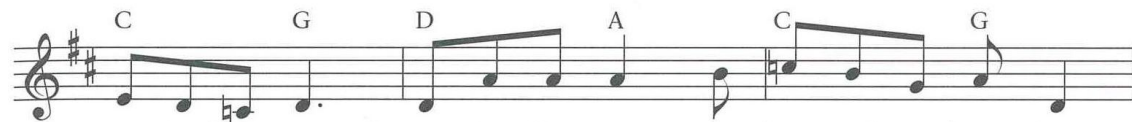
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Gather Us In

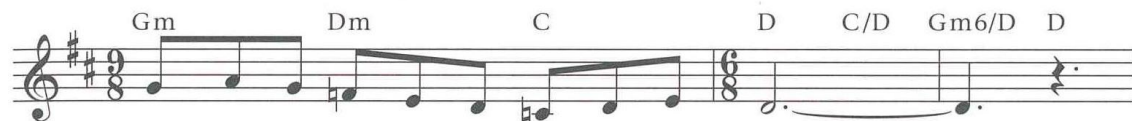
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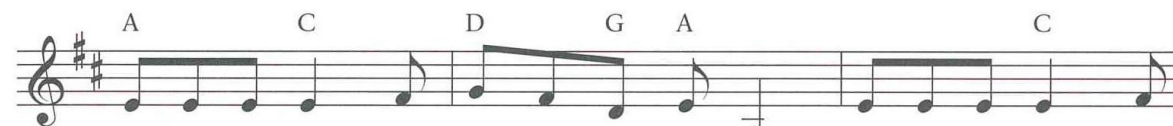
1 Here in this place— new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - tery, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



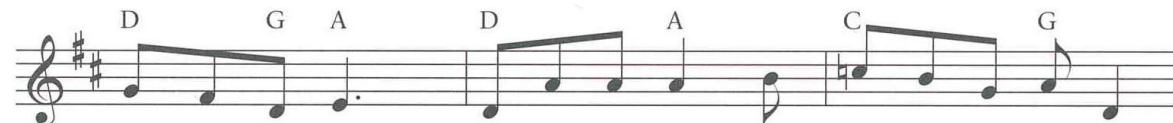
van-ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peop - les to-geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire— of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text and music: Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

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GATHER US IN

✚ PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God from whom all blessings flow,
help us to embrace the unique gifts
your Spirit has instilled in each of us.
Give us the wisdom to discern
where your world could use our talents most,
and grant us humility to recognize
where we rely on the strength and insight of others,
so that, in mutual giving and receiving,
all needs may be met,
according to the way of Jesus
through his life and death.
Amen.

✦ Thanksgiving for Baptism

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O Lord our God, we give you thanks
for the faith, hope, and love you give to us
through the blessing of our baptism—
**claiming us as your beloved children,
calling us to the path of discipleship,
revealing to us the light of your glory.**

By the power of your Holy Spirit,
poured out upon us in baptism,

help us to follow you with faith,

to trust in you with hope,

and to serve you with love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Soul Centered Photography © Susanne von Schroeder

+ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Greet each other with a sign of God's peace.

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

By one spirit

we were baptized into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

Amen! We are bound by the love of Christ.



WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture,
reading, preaching and song*



Tom Co

First Reading Isaiah 58:1-12

58:1 Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. 58:2 Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. 58:3 "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. 58:4 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. 58:5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? 58:6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 58:7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

58:8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. 58:9a Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. 58:9b If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, 58:10 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

58:11 The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. 58:12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

2:1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 2:3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 2:4 My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 2:5 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. 2:6 Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. 2:7 But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 2:8 None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 2:9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" 2:10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 2:11 For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. 2:12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. 2:13 And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. 2:14 Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 2:15 Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. 2:16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God



HYMN "Spirit of Gentleness"

INSERT

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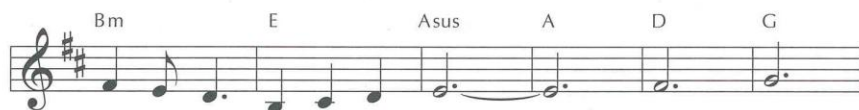
GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain



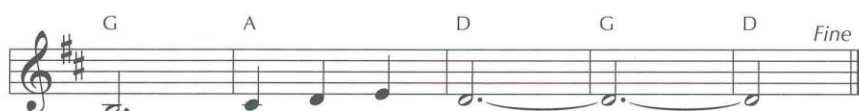
Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the



wil - der - ness, call - ing and free. Spir - it,



spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id - ness,



wind, wind on the sea. *Fine*



1 You moved on the wa - ters; you called to the

2 You swept through the des - ert; you stung with the

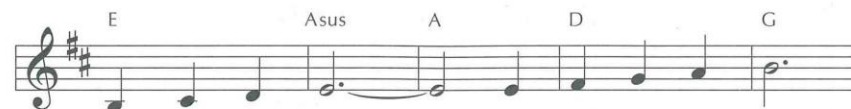
3 You sang in a sta - ble; you cried from a

4 You call from to - mor - row; you break an - cient



deep; sand; hill; schemes; then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
from the bond - age of sor - row the

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



val - leys of sleep; and o - ver the e -

law and a land. When they were con - found -

whole world was still. And down in the cit -

cap - tives dream dreams. Our wom - en see vi -



ons you called to each thing, "A -

ed with i - dols and lies, then you

y, you called once a - gain when you

sions; our men clear their eyes. With



wake from your slum - bers and

spoke through your proph - ets to

blew through your peo - ple on the

bold new de - ci - sions your



rise on your wings."

o - pen their eyes.

rush of the wind.

peo - ple a - rise.

As the author/composer reminds us in the refrain, the Spirit is both gentle and restless. The stanzas reinforce a sense of the Spirit's activity through a wide range of verbs, initially in the past tense; but they become more urgent in the present tense of the fourth stanza.

TEXT: James K. Manley, 1975, alt.
MUSIC: James K. Manley, 1976
Text and Music © 1978 James K. Manley

SPIRIT
Irregular

✚ GOSPEL READING Matthew 5:13-20

5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 5:15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 5:18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

5:19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God



Procopius the Righteous Praying
Nicholas Roerich

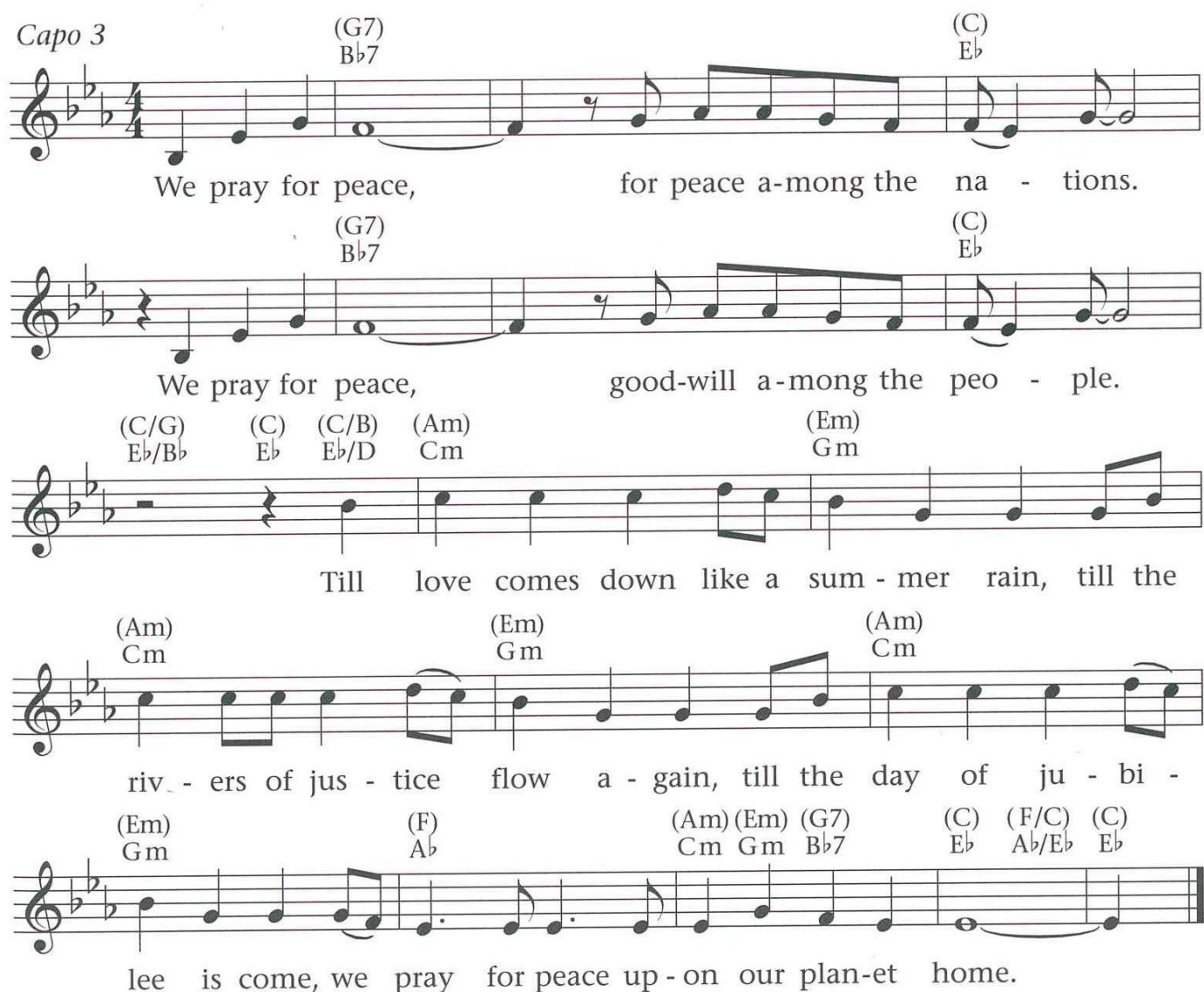
OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of glory,
as you used the simple words Paul to grow your church,
use now our simple gifts for your service.
Use our gifts to lift up those who are oppressed,
to bring deliverance to those who are in need,
to support those who are poor,
and to help those who are in trouble. Amen.



We Pray for Peace 207

Capo 3



The musical score is written for guitar in 4/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The tempo is marked 'Capo 3'. The lyrics are: 'We pray for peace, for peace a-mong the na - tions. We pray for peace, good-will a-mong the peo - ple. Till love comes down like a sum - mer rain, till the riv - ers of jus - tice flow a - gain, till the day of ju - bi - lee is come, we pray for peace up - on our plan-et home.'

Chords and lyrics for each line:

- Line 1: (G7) Bb7 (C) Eb
We pray for peace, for peace a-mong the na - tions.
- Line 2: (G7) Bb7 (C) Eb
We pray for peace, good-will a-mong the peo - ple.
- Line 3: (C/G) Eb/Bb (C) Eb (C/B) Eb/D (Am) Cm (Em) Gm
Till love comes down like a sum - mer rain, till the
- Line 4: (Am) Cm (Em) Gm (Am) Cm
riv - ers of jus - tice flow a - gain, till the day of ju - bi -
- Line 5: (Em) Gm (F) Ab (Am) (Em) (G7) (C) (F/C) (C)
lee is come, we pray for peace up - on our plan-et home.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sherry Middlemis-Brown

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

✚ CLOSING HYMN “Bring Forth the Kingdom” #123 GREEN

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EPIPHANY

Bring Forth the Kingdom

123



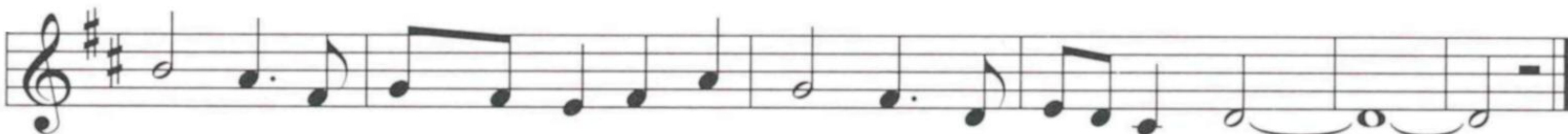
1 You are— salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!
2 You are a light on a hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!
3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: live for the king-dom of God!



Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the king-dom of God!
Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the king-dom of God!
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the king-dom of God!



Bring forth the king-dom of mer-cy; pray for the king-dom of peace;

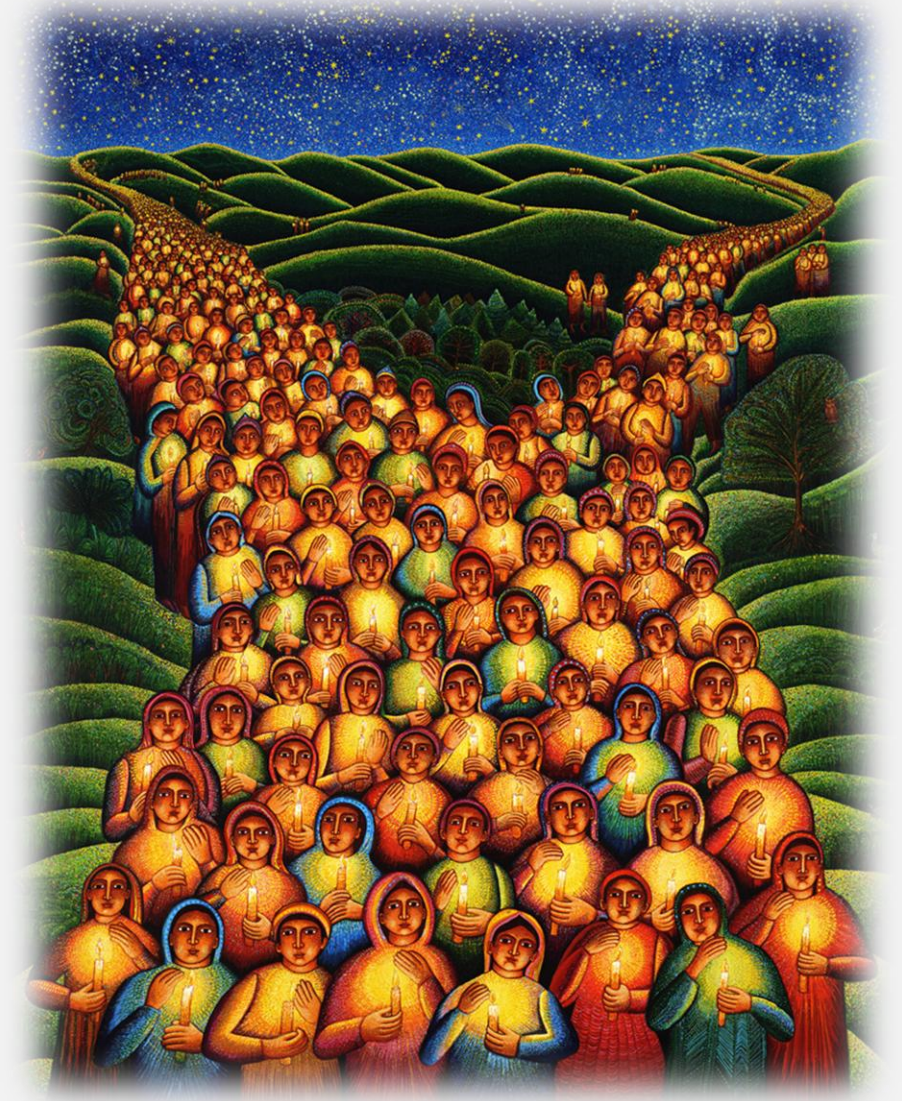


work for the king-dom of jus-tice; hope for the cit-y of God!

+ CHARGE AND BLESSING

Jesus said,
let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

May Christ, the true light,
shine upon you,
that you may walk in righteousness
all your days.
Amen.



Festival of Lights
John August Swanson

+ POSTLUDE AND MEDITATION

What does it mean to have the mind of Christ,
and how do I live with the mind of Christ in my
daily activities?

If I let my light shine, what will others see in me?

Will others see Jesus?

Will they give glory to God?



Thanks to:

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeters: Judy Albee

Reader: Ann Campbell

Prayer Writer: Lois Jambekar

Coffee: Biruta Lowether and Judy Albee

Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

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CALL TO WORSHIP: *Blessing of Salt, Blessing of Light* © Jan Richardson

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WORD: *Let Your Light Shine* Cara B. Hochhalter

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59298>

SERMON: *Procopius the Righteous* Praying Nicholas Roerich

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *Kinfolk* © Jan Richardson <https://janrichardsonimages.com>

INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Photograph by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

MEAL: *The Lord is My Shepherd* Eastman Johnson, Smithsonian Museum of American Art, DC

The Best Supper © Jan Richardson <https://janrichardsonimages.com>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *Light from roof of Cardboard Cathedral* Shigeru Ban

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59382>

CHARGE AND BLESSING: Festival of Lights John August Swanson

<http://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>

POSTLUDE AND MEDITATION: Title: *Dorothy Day with Homeless Christ* Artist: Kelly Latimore

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Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton Michigan 49931
www.PLUC.org office@pluc.org (906)482-5224

Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.