



DOWNTOWN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Increase the Light within us—



O Beloved, hear our prayer!”

Celebration of Worship
Sunday, November 15, 2020
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Prelude Meditation on "This Little Light"

Words of Welcome

Rev. Deb Swift

Chime

Introit

Walk in the Light

Arr. André Thomas

**"Walk in the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dew-drops of mercy shine bright.
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world."**

Text: George D. Elderkin

Call to Worship

Bob Richane

(from *A Weary World* by Kathy Escobar, Westminster John Knox Press, alt. Lee Wright)

One: God, help us to live into the places that don't always make sense to us.

Many: Help us to be rooted in your love, even in the face of challenge.

One: Help us to remember that no matter how confused, broken, tired, or faithless we might feel,

Many: You are with us and we are part of your love song for ALL creation.

One: And so we come to worship you with open and humble hearts.

Many: May your light guide us and shine through us in this time of worship and beyond.

1. When God restored our common life, our hope, our liberty,
At first it seemed a passing dream, a waking fantasy.
A shock of joy swept over us, for we had wept so long;
The seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.

2. We went forth weeping, sowing seeds in hard, unyielding soil;
With laughing hearts we carry home the fruit of all our toil.
We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.
The seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.

3. Great liberating God, we pray for all who are oppressed.
May those who long for what is right with justice now be blest.
We pray for those who mourn this day, and all who suffer wrong;
May seeds they water now with tears spring up into a song.

Text: Ruth Duck (Ps. 126)

Centering Prayer (responsive)

Bob Richane

One: Jesus, in Matthew 10, you tell us:
*What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light;
and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.*

Many: Center us in your love. Wrap us in your Grace.
Robe us in your Light as we seek to be
your proclaimers through the way we live our lives
and the hope we bring to others.
As fire blazes in the wind, you burst through all creation –
not just in the upper room, in one place and time,
but everywhere. O Spirit, set hearts on fire every
minute of every day, and empower us to be the spark
of your transforming presence in the world, we ask. Amen.

One: Eternal and Immortal One, You have been our refuge in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, before You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are the Alpha and the Omega.

Many: When our days on Earth are ended, You welcome us home to your Heart, To the City of Light, where time is eternal and days are not numbered. You gather those who love You as friends returning from a long journey, giving rest to their souls. You anoint them with the balm of understanding, healing wounds of the past.

One: Help us to wait in Silence listening for your gentle Voice; Strengthen us with courage to face the fears within.

Many: O, that we might be converted in our hearts and walk together in peace and harmony! Let your Love be known to the nations, your Glory to our children's children.

One: Let the grace and gentleness of the Holy Spirit be upon us, Guiding our feet upon paths of Love Consciousness.

Many: Increase the light within us—O Beloved, hear our prayer!

One: Here ends our Psalm reading for this day.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Text from *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*, by Nan C. Merrill

Music for Reflection

O Thou, the Central Orb

Charles Wood

*"O thou the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most high,
Eternal light of this our wintry world,
Thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith,
Hope soars above.*

*Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.
Thy saints with holy luster round thee move,
as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel,
as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.*

*Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee,
transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen."*

Text: H.R. Bramley

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:5-20
From *The Message* translation

Meditation

"Turn on the Heart Light"

Rev. Swift

Hymn

This Little Light of Mine
This little light of mine. . .
Jesus gave it to me. . .
Deep in my heart. . .
Everywhere I go. . .
All around the world. . .

Negro Spiritual

Shout Out for Stewardship

Ed Saphar

Prayers of Healing and Transformation
Prayer of Jesus

Rev. Swift

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit come! Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Shine, Jesus Shine

Graham Kendrick

Please join in singing the refrain each time:

**“Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with Creator’s glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with love and mercy;
send forth your Word, God, and let there be light!”**

Benediction

Rev. Swift

Postlude

The Storm Is Passing Over

Charles Tindley
Arr. Barbara Baker

Thank you to . . .

Participants: Rev. Deb Swift, Bob Richane, Ed Saphar
Alan Jones, and Lee Wright

Choir Members: Hannah Stokes, Joan Sussman, Marrlee Burgess, Kathryn Borden,
Ben Magruder, Jacob Hunter, Kevin Iacovelli, and Alan Jones.
Jason Cloen, piano and organ

Sound Engineers: Donald Fairman, David McDowell, and Ben Magruder (Choral Music)
Website integration: Mark Anderson

The Downtown Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Pat Youngdahl,

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn Kelly,

Associate Pastor

Jackie Griffin, Nursery Coordinator

Mark Anderson, Director of Operations

Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor

Ed Verna, Maintenance

Moses Nhial, Maintenance

Robert Clement, Maintenance

Dr. Lee S. Wright,

Director of Music Ministry

Jason Cloen, Associate Musician

Alan Jones, Associate Musician

Penny Crudup, Church Secretary

David Mear, Business Manager

Teresa Ward, Bookkeeper

& Receptionist Coordinator

Keisha Betts, Receptionist

Theresa Reddick, Receptionist

Parish Leaders

John DeHority, Bill Mackey, Co-clerks of Session

Joan Mackey, Moderator of Deacons

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