

Songs and Stories for the Christmas Season



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1: 5

Downtown Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 26, 2021
Service for The Lord's Day
Sunday, December 26, 2021

Prelude *You'll Never Walk Alone* Alan Jones, Lee Wright
Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Greeting

Chime

Call to Worship (responsive) Psalm 148

One: Praise God. Praise God from the heavens.

All: Give praise ye angels. Give praise ye hosts.

One: Give praise sun and moon.

All: Give praise all you shining stars.

One: Give praise you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

All: Let them praise the name of our God.

Centering Prayer (unison)

God, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon,

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is darkness, light,

Where there is sadness, joy.

**O Divine One, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console,**

**not so much to be understood as to understand,
not so much to be loved, as to love;**

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

--- St. Francis of Assisi

First Reading

Colossians 3: 12-17

The First Story

I Am Love: A Book of Compassion

Written by: Susan Verde

Illustrated by: Peter H. Reynolds

Song

Love is Little

Shaker Tune

Alan Jones, Lee Wright

Gospel Reading (*The Magnificat*)

Luke 1: 46-55

The Second Story

I Am One: A Book of Action

Author: Susan Verde

Illustrated by: Peter H. Reynolds

Song:

One Voice

Barry Manilow

Alan Jones

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

A Guided Meditation

Prayer of Jesus

A modern version of

The Prayer of Jesus from the Anglican Church of New Zealand,
which both honors and reflects indigenous Maori culture.

Eternal Spirit,

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen.

Benediction (responsive)

Benediction from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Baccalaureate 1995:

Because the world is poor and starving, **go with bread.**
Because the world is filled with fears, **go with courage.**
Because the world is in despair, **go with hope.**
Because the world is living lies, **go with the truth.**
Because the world is sick with sorrow, **go with joy.**
Because the world is weary of wars, **go with peace.**
Because the world is seldom fair, **go with justice.**
Because the world is under judgment, **go with mercy.**
Because the world will die without it, **go with love.**

Postlude

No One Is Alone
Alan Jones, Lee Wright

Stephen Sondheim

Participants: John DeHority, Alan Jones, Lea Kone, Lee Wright
Engineering Crew: Don Fairman, David McDowell