

VIRTUAL CHAPEL SERVICE

January 6 and January 9, 2021



“Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because... the wealth of the nations shall come to you”

~ Isaiah 60:5 (NRSV)



EPIPHANY

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

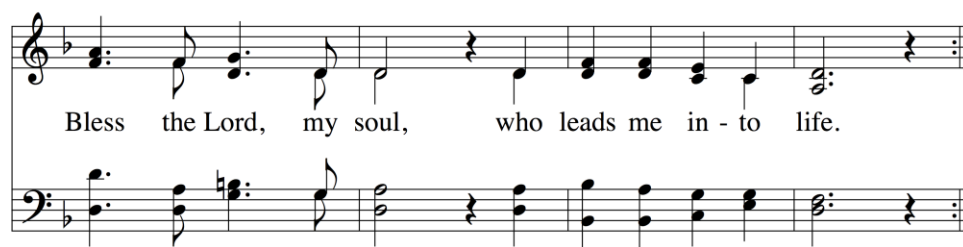
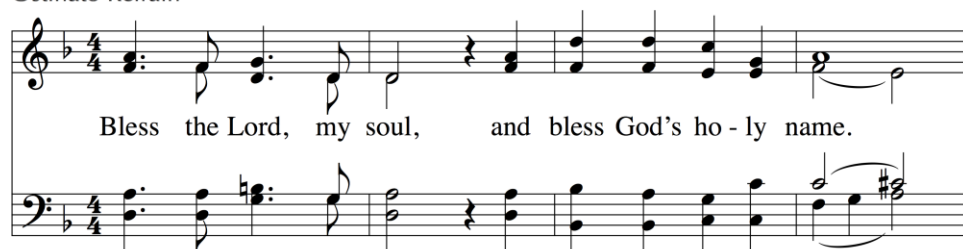
CENTERING SONG

“BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL”

TAIZE

Bless the Lord

Ostinato Refrain



Text: Psalm 103; Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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GREETING

PRESIDER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

Darkness has been banished!

God's light of hope floods the earth

God's light comes to us all.

Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.

Prepare our hearts to receive this Light. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD”

AAHH 217

Hark! the herald angels sing.

Jesus, the light of the world.

Glory to the newborn King,

Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain:
We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.

Joyful, all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]

Christ, by highest heav'n adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]

CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Let us join our voices together in a unison prayer of confession:

Most holy, most forgiving, and most loving God,
we admit to you and to each other,
that we are weak ones who foolishly and thoughtlessly choose darkness over the
bright light of your grace.

Together, we admit our weakness and submit to you all our foolishness and
thoughtlessness; our pride and vanity; our short-sightedness and lack of
wisdom; our inability to change for the better and our reluctance to ask for
your guidance.

Please forgive the pain and oppression we continue to visit upon others;
restore in us the bright light of hope and cleanse our hearts and minds
We beseech you, Lord, soften our hearts and strengthen our will to follow you.
In the name of our Lord, Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen!

Friends, hear this good news: Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Everyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.

Believe the good news of the Gospel!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“EPIPHANY”

MALCOLM GUTE

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son
Reveal to us the single loving heart
That beats behind the being of all things
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings
‘You are beloved, you are my delight!’
In that quick light and life, as water spills
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,
The voice that made the universe reveals
The God in Man who makes it new again.
He calls us too, to step into that river
To die and rise and live and love forever.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

NRSV

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

REV. DR. CATHERINE WILLIAMS (1/6), SPRING DAVIDSON (1/9)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Let us implore the Lord our God praying,
“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.”

We pray for leaders of the Church.
May they serve as examples
to those who would come to believe in Christ for eternal life.
May the Church place its hope in you, O God,
and not in human wisdom.

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations.
May they show mercy and advocate for the rights of the people.
May they, like Moses, seek the greater good rather than their own interests

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

We thank you for all you created.

We thank you that your Son Jesus Christ rejoiced in your creation—
telling stories about sheep, praying in the wilderness and walking on the sea.
May we also appreciate the works of your hands.

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

We pray for the sick, the anxious and the sorrowful.
Make them hear of joy and gladness,
that broken bodies and broken spirits may rejoice.

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

We trust to your mercy, O God, all who have died.
May they rest eternally in your peace.
To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, our God,
be honor and glory forever and ever.

Silence

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“BLESS THE LORD”

INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

Open your hearts! **We open our hearts to God!**

Let us give thanks to God! **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! Before all this, You were God. Outside all we know, You are God. After all is finished, You will be God. Archangels sound the trumpets, angels teach us to sing, Saints pull us into Your presence.

And this is our song:

Santo, santo, santo [NCH 793]

Mi Corazon te adora,

Mi Corazon te sabe decir

Santo eres Dios

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! You beyond the galaxies, You under the oceans, You inside the leaves, You pouring down rain,

You opening the flowers, You feeding the insects, You giving us Your image, You carrying us through the waters, You holding us in the night; Your smile on Hagar, Sarah, and Abraham, Your hand with Moses and Miriam,...

Your words through Deborah and Isaiah – You lived as Jesus among us, healing teaching, dying, rising, and inviting us all to Your feast.

And so we pray after Him: Our Friend, our Brother, ...

...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.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying:
“Take and eat this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for
the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Holy God, we remember Your Son, His life with the humble, His death among the
wretched, His resurrection for us all:
Your wisdom our guide, Your justice our strength, Your grace our way to rebirth.
And so we cry, Mercy: **Mercy!**
And so we cry, Glory: **Glory!**
And so we cry, Blessing: **Blessing!**

Holy God, we beg for Your Spirit. Enliven this bread, awaken this body, pour us out for
each other. Transfigure our minds, ignite Your church, nourish the life of the earth.
Make us, while many, united; make us, though broken, whole; make us, despite
death, alive.
And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**
And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**
And so the whole earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three – our life, our mercy, our might,
our table, our food, our server, our rainbow, our ark, our dove,...
...our sovereign, our water, our wine, our light, our treasure, our tree,
our way, our truth, our life – You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!
Praise now, praise tomorrow, praise forever! **Amen!**

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***CLOSING SONG**

“ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME”

NCH 164

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (1947-)

MUSIC: William H. Walter (1825-1893)

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***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING & POSTLUDE**

Go and search diligently where God resides,
And pay homage to all in whom the Spirit lives.

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<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57148> [retrieved July 8, 2020]. Original source: Mike Moyers,
<https://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/>.

Call to Worship: Nancy C. Townley - Ministry Matters 11/30/17, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2170/worship-connection-january-1-2012>, accessed July 9, 2020.

Poem: Malcolm Guite, "Epiphany," <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/tag/epiphany/>, accessed July 8, 2020.

Prayer of Illumination: Caldwell Presbyterian Church, "Prayers for Illumination (for Scripture Readers)," <http://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

Prayer of the Community: written by Father Jeremiah Williamson, rearranged by Seminary Chapel Team, <http://jeremiahwilliamson.blogspot.ca/>, accessed July 9, 2020.

Communion Liturgy: Modified "Triple Praise" – A Eucharist Liturgy by Gail Ramshaw from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services with Adaptations*.

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**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.
To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.
To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.