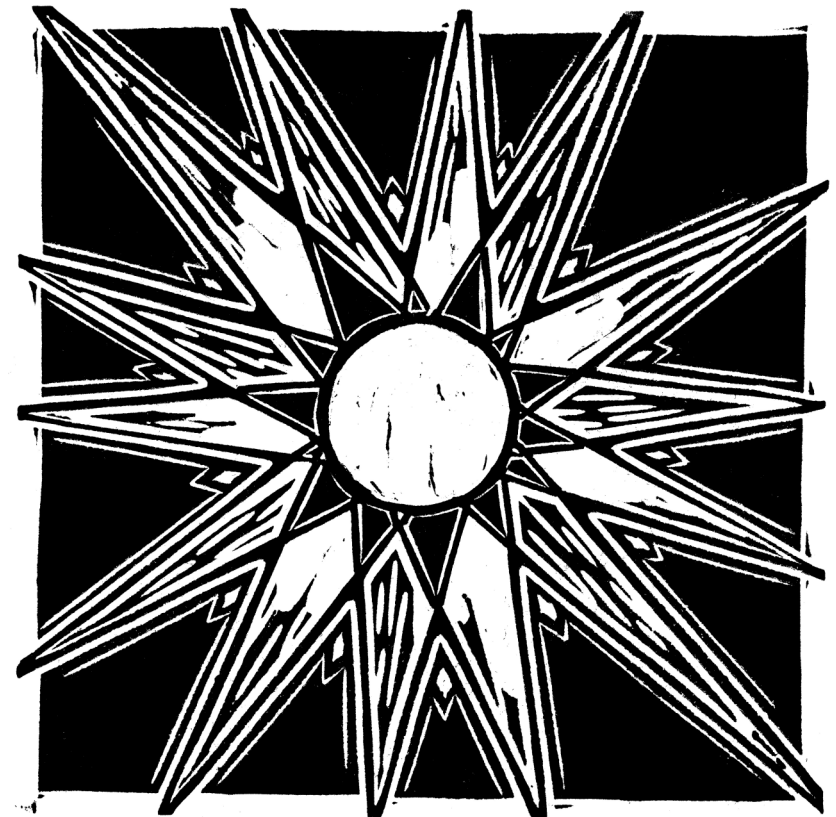


Christmastide

January 1, 2017



Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Worship Participants

Pastor: Michael Ribbens ✦ Piano: Mike Janssen ✦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries
 Bass: Luke Hawley ✦ Worship Leader: Rebecca DeVries
 Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ✦ Projection: Kyle Vander Plaats
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† *Sun of Righteousness*—Linoleum block print by Elizabeth Steele Halstead.
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God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome

*Call to Worship

*Songs of Praise: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LUYH 80
 "Open the Eyes of My Heart" LUYH 537

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Ten Thousand Reasons" LUYH 559

We Confess, Lament, and Find Hope

New Testament Lectionary Reading: Matthew 2:1-18 p.1497

Song of Confession and Lament: "Blest Are the Innocents" LUYH 108

Assurance of God's Sovereignty (Our World Belongs to God #55-56)

**Our hope for a new creation
 is not tied to what humans can do,
 for we believe that one day every challenge
 to God's rule will be crushed.
 His kingdom will fully come, and the Lord will rule.
 Come, Lord Jesus, come.
 We long for that day when our bodies are raised,
 the Lord wipes away our tears,
 and we dwell forever in the presence of God.
 We will take our place in the new creation,
 where there will be no more death
 or mourning or crying or pain,
 and the Lord will be our light.
 Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Song of Assurance: "Don't Be Afraid" LUYH 429

**We will not be burned by the fire, he is the Lord our God
 We are not consumed by the flood,
 upheld, protected, gathered up. (Chorus)**

**In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid.
 For the promised morning, oh how long?
 Oh God of Jacob, be my strength. (Chorus)**

**Every vow we've broken and betrayed, you are the faithful one.
 And from the garden to the grave,
 bind us together, bring shalom. (Chorus)**

Text & Music: Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore
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Psalm 103

**Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
 Praise the Lord, my soul; and forget not all his benefits--
 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
 who redeems your life from the pit
 and crowns you with love and compassion.**

We Offer our Gifts

Our gifts to Covenant's Compassion Fund provide monetary support to our members who need it.

Offertory: "As with Gladness Men of Old" LUYH 105:1-3

We Go Out With God's Blessing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Siyahamba/We Are Marching in the Light of God"
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenhos' (4x)
Siyahamba, ooh, siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenhos' (repeat)

We are dancing* in the light of God (4x)
We are dancing*, oh, we are dancing* in the light of God. (repeat)

***Additional verses: , praying, singing**

Text: South African; Eng. tr. Gracia Grindal, Music: South African; arr. Freedom Is Coming
 Eng tr. and music arr © 1984 Utryck (adm. Walton Music Corp) OneLicense.net. License No. #A-721171

*Hymn of Praise: "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" LUYH 965

Invocation

Is the Father with us? **The Father is with us!**

Is Christ among us? **Christ is among us!**

Is the Spirit here? **The Spirit is here!**

This is our God: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

We are God's people. **We are redeemed.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving to God the Father

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

...Therefore with angels archangels, faithful ancestors and all in heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

The Institution by Christ the Son

...Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer for the Work of the Holy Spirit

...As Jesus taught us, we pray together:

Our Father...

The Invitation to the Table

The bread which we break is our sharing in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

The cup for which we give thanks is our sharing in the blood of Christ.

The cup which we all share is our fellowship in the blood of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Distribution of the Elements: "We Will Feast in the House of Zion"

Chorus: ***We will feast in the house of Zion.***

We will sing with our hearts restored.

He has done great things, we will say together.

We will feast and weep no more.

God Speaks Through His Word

Children's Blessing: "Come, Lord Jesus"

***Come, Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus:
come and be born in our hearts.***

***Come, Immanuel, come, Immanuel, come, Immanuel:
come and be born in our hearts.***

Words & Music: Carey Landry, © 1976 North American Liturgy Resources, admin. OCP Publications

Children ages 3 years old through Kindergarten are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive a prayer of blessing before going downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

p.1819

Sermon: "Remember, There's a Third Way"

Michael Ribbens

We Respond with Thanksgiving

*Song of Response: "All Are Welcome"

LUYH 269:1,3,4

Offertory Prayer

We Offer our Gifts

Each week at Covenant we receive a monetary offering to support the mission and ministry of the church. This morning's offering will support the General/Building Fund. The General Fund keeps our church operating and pays for a wide range of denominational ministries while the Building Fund offerings are used to cover major project expenses for the church.

We Celebrate Communion

Preparing the Table

All things come from you, O Lord.

And of our own, we have given you.

We bring bread; **you give your body.**

We bring wine; **you give your blood.**

We bring our offerings; **yours is the sacrifice.**

Let us bring our gifts to be prepared for the communion feast of our Lord.