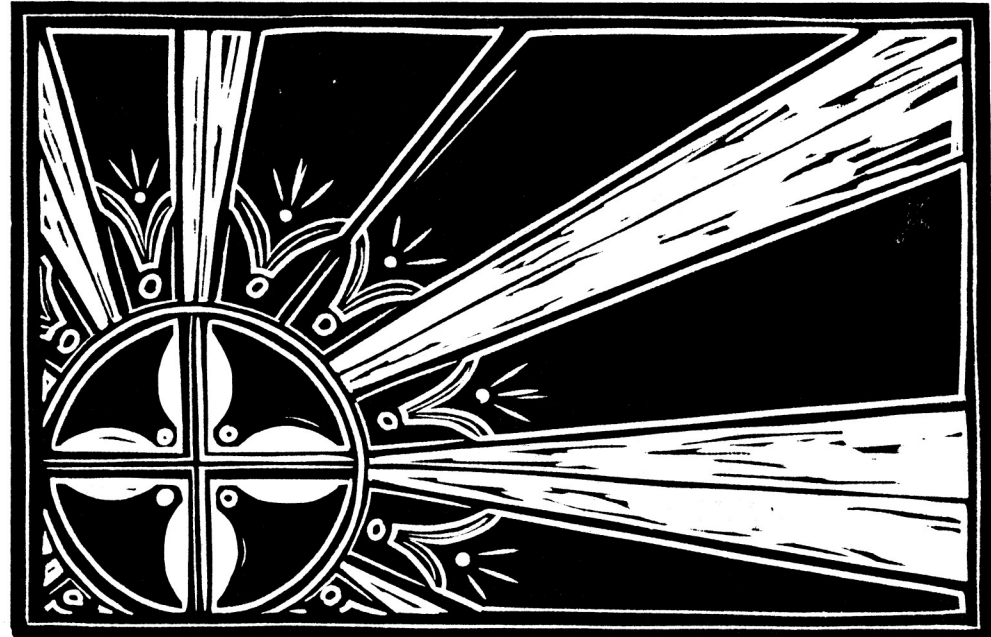


Epiphany

January 15, 2017



Collect

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

† *Cross and Sun Rays*—Linoleum block print by Elizabeth Steele Halstead.
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Worship Participants

Pastor: Kory Plockmeyer ♦ Piano: Mike Janssen ♦ Guitar: Ben Lappenga
Bass: Luke Hawley ♦ Drums: Adam Schultz ♦ Worship Leader: Lauren Plockmeyer
Readers: Erin Eggebeen, Sara Hulstein, Carlye Tazelaar
Sound: Doug DeBoer ♦ Projection: Dane Hibma
CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171 ♦ LicenSing #627005

God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome

*Call to Worship: Isaiah 60:1-3 p.1155

*Gathering Song: "Here I Am to Worship" LUYH 567

*Prayer of Invocation

*Song: "My Lighthouse"

1. *In my wrestling and in my doubts, in my failures You won't walk out.*

Your great love will lead me through;

You are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh,

You are the peace in my troubled sea.

2. *In the silence You won't let go, in the questions Your truth will hold.*

Your great love will lead me through;

You are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh,

You are the peace in my troubled sea.

Chorus: *My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse shining in the darkness,*

I will follow You, oh my Lighthouse, my Lighthouse,

I will trust the promise: You will carry me safe to shore,

Safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore

3. *I won't fear what tomorrow brings.*

With each morning I'll rise and sing.

My God's love will lead me through;

You are the peace in my troubled sea, whoa oh,

You are the peace in my troubled sea. (to chorus)

Bridge: *Fire before us, You're the brightest,*

You will lead us through the storms. (2x)

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*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Song of Praise: "The Lord Is My Light" LUYH 431:1,2
(Soloist sings verse 1, congregation joins on refrain and verse 2)

O cross that lifts up our heads,

we dare not ask to fly from thee.

In you we live, move, and have our being.

You lift up our heads.

You are the author of life.

You lift up our heads.

You created us in your very image.

You lift up our heads.

You knit us together in our mother's wombs;
we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

You lift up our heads.

All of life is a gift, and all of life is sacred.

We offer our lives, our holy and sacred lives to you.

Amen.

*Song: "Take My Life and Let It Be" LUYH 863:1

We are Sent with God's Blessing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace" LUYH 938

We Offer Our Gifts and Prayers

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 Christian Education Fund which provides funds for the education of our children at one of our local Christian schools; this "fair share" contribution helps keep tuition down to a level that is affordable for most of our families.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Prayer

O love that will not let us go,

we rest our weary souls in thee,

though we sin, fail, hurt, and destroy,

you will not let us go.

Though we kill, impoverish, steal, rape, abort, and enslave,

you will not let us go.

Though we judge, silence, forget, ignore, and harm,

you will not let us go.

Though we fail to see the sanctity of life every day, in a million ways,

you will not let us go.

O light that follows all our ways,

we yield our flickering torch to thee.

You know the pain that follows those who have had abortions.

Your light follows all our ways.

You know the weight of bearing a child who is unplanned.

Your light follows all our ways.

You know the shock of discovering birth defects and disease.

Your light follows all our ways.

You know the trauma of rape and incest.

Your light follows all our ways.

O joy that seeks us through pain, we cannot close our hearts to thee.

We lift up political leaders, whose decisions can change our laws.

We lift up health care providers, whose care can harm and can save.

We lift up congregations,

whose grace can rescue and whose judgment can destroy.

We lift up sexuality,

which can reveal deep vulnerability and belonging, or deep pain.

We lift up women, who can find strength and healing in you.

(continued on next page)

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Prayer of Lament and Intercession

Prayer of Confession: John 1:9-11

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

We confess that we do not always recognize your light.

(Moment of silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon: John 1:3-5

Through him all things were made;

without him nothing was made that has been made.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**We thank God for the light that has come to the world,
the light that shines in all corners of creation.**

God Speaks to Us 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.***

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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: Matthew 4:12-18

p.1500

Sermon: "The Great Light"

Pastor Kory Plockmeyer

*Song of Response: "All Are Welcome"

LUYH 269:1,2,5