



January 5, 2025

“What Contributes to  
Our Radiance?”

Epiphany

## **Welcome!**

We encourage wearing name tags.

Restrooms: main level (exit front left), lower level (at foot of entry stair/elevator)

## **The Love of God Gathers Us**

### **Gathering Music**

*We gently settle into sacred time and space*

### **Ring the Bell**

### **Prelude & Candle Lighting “Brightest and Best”**

*American Folk Hymn, arr Mark Hayes*

*We acknowledge the light of Christ among us*

### **Words of Welcome and Announcements**

### **Opening Words from a Neighbor**

SPP = *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\* = Sitting or standing

NCH = *New Century Hymnal*

**\*Call to Worship** *(responsive)*

As Mary and Joseph opened their hearts to the child in their arms...

**As the magi opened their hearts to a journey of unknown proportions...**

May we throw open the doors of our hearts – to welcome the struggles and joys of living in the mysteries of faith.

**May our worship guide us, like the brightest star – closer to God, to ourselves, and to one another. Amen.**

**\*Opening Carol (NCH #159)**      “As with Gladness Those of Old”  
**verses 1 & 2**

**Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace**

**Centering Ourselves**      *...as the singing bowl invites us into stillness*

**Prayer of Confession and Longing** *(unison)*

**God of perfect light, we confess that we sometimes turn our backs to the light of your love, hurting ourselves and others. Forgive us and grant us new opportunities. Help us to be more like the magi, following the light you offer. Illuminate our minds with your truth. Help us to bring our full selves forward. Guide us on the journey. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Musical Interlude**      *...to accompany our quiet prayers*

**Assurance of Grace**

**A Time With Children and Youth**

**Sung Invitation**      *...as young people come forward*

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...**

Tibetan singing bowls took form in the 6th and 5th centuries BCE. In some Buddhist traditions, singing bowls accompany meditation and chanting. Since the 1970s, singing bowls have also contributed to spiritual practices in the United States.

## Singing “Happy Birthday”

Diane Legato (1/5), Cindy Siegel (1/5), Avery Albright (1/7, 4 yrs),  
Dennis Albright (1/10)

## Wondering Together

### Blessing One Another

...with arms wide open

Young Ones: God be with you

**All: And also with you**

### Sung Affirmation

...as young people depart or return to families

**Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...**

***Children's Activity*** | Children (age 3 - gr. 4) go downstairs with Claire & Kim  
***Youth Group*** | Youth (gr. 5-12) go with Telae to their main-level meeting space  
***Nursery*** | Families with infants & toddlers are welcome to utilize the downstairs nursery  
(the worship service can be heard in the nursery)  
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship!

## Proclaiming God's Love

**A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures** | NRSV (Old Testament, p. 690) Isaiah 60:1-6

**A Reading from the Gospels** | NRSV (New Testament, p. 2) Matthew 2:1-12

Here ends the readings.

**May God speak to us through these sacred words.**

### Morning Message

"What Contributes to Our Radiance?"

## Responding To God's Love

### Prayer Hymn (NCH #584)

“I Am the Light of the World”  
**verses 1-3**

As reparations for use of “This Little Light of Mine” and other Black spirituals, we support Walk West (St. Paul): a music learning community rooted in the African-American cultural experience, where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather, explore, and grow through music.

## Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world  
Please tell Pastor Clare if you prefer yours not be added to our printed Prayer Corner*

...God, in your love      **Hear our prayer**

### Prayer of Jesus (*unison*)

**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 testing, 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.**

### Invitation to the Offering

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)  
**Blue electronic giving cards** represent gifts made electronically.*



### Offertory

“Brightest and Best of the Stars”

*Harding*

### \*Offertory Response (NCH #128)      “In the Bleak Midwinter”

**What can I offer, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;  
but what can I offer: all my heart.**

## Sharing in Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is open to members and friends of all ages  
as we seek to follow Jesus in the way of radically inclusive love*

### **\*The Invitation and Prayer**

God be with you.                    **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.            **We lift them to God.**  
Let us give thanks to the God of all.

**Loving God, you are Creator of energy and matter, the heavens and the Earth.  
We celebrate you – joining our voices with the wind and streams, animals and  
flowers, the living and the dead (*pause*), the stars, planets, and all members of  
creation – forever proclaiming your expansive love. Amen.**

### **Words of Remembrance and Blessing**

### **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*Take a piece of (gluten-free) bread and a cup of juice, receiving words of blessing  
Place your empty cup in a basket on a front pew, returning by a side aisle*

**Communion Song (SPP #112)            “Come to the Table of Grace”**  
**all verses**

**Come to the table of grace (peace, love, joy)  
Come to the table of (*grace*)  
This is Christ’s table, not just yours or mine  
Come to the table of (*grace*)**

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The bread of life and cup of blessing for everyone!            **Thanks be to God!**  
**God of all, thank you for sending a star to guide the magi to Christ. We praise  
you for signs and witnesses in every generation that lead us to your presence.  
Thank you for inviting, blessing and renewing us at your table today. May we  
move forward as your partners in ministry, bearing your light and honoring it  
in all others. Amen.**

## Going Forth to Share God's Love

**\*Closing Hymn (NCH #164)**    “Arise, Your Light Is Come”  
**all verses**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you!    **And also with you!**

*...to those online and onsite: smiles, peace signs, handshakes*

**\*Postlude**

*...as we pass the peace*

**Today Following Worship:**

**10:30am** | All are welcome downstairs for refreshments and good company!



# Annual Meeting

**Sunday, Feb. 2nd**  
**11 am (after brunch)**

**\*Elections (Leadership Council) \*2025 budget**

***Annual reports due Jan. 19th.***

Per our bylaws: Electronic and hard copies of our Annual report and 2025 budget will be available beginning Jan. 26th.

## PRAYER CORNER

\*With Mary Binger, prayers for friend **Kathleen and her daughters** as they grieve the recent death of their husband and father Gregory.

\***Traveling mercies** for all who are enjoying holiday gatherings.

\*Thankful hearts for the presence of **Frank Cole and other nonagenarians** in worship!

\*Gratitude for two leaders who recently died: **Dr. John Cobb** (process theologian) and **Rev. Dr. Ruth Duck** (whose prayers we often use).

\*For Frank's daughter, **Tara Christou**, who deals with chronic foot pain.

\*For healing and release for all who cope with **chronic pain or illness** of body, mind, and spirit.

\*For those of us who struggle with **addiction** and toward recovery.

\*For **those without homes** as the bitter cold looms, we pray for adequate temporary housing and long-term housing.

\*For Sharon Neuenfeldt's brother, **Allen**, facing the return of prostate cancer.

\*May **President Jimmy Carter** rest in deep peace, light and love beyond our imagining.

### *A reminder that our 2 free pantries offer food 365 days a year.*

Please be sure to bring items in cardboard or plastic packaging as the temperatures drop.

No cans or glass!

We really appreciate your support and we wish you peace and joy now and in the upcoming year.



### **Crutches4Africa (We're hosting a barrel for a few weeks)**

Millions of people in Africa desperately need mobility devices, but cannot afford them. Donate your used crutches, walkers, canes, walking boots, prosthetic legs, wheelchairs, knee scooters, leg/knee braces, arm slings, baby joggers (not strollers), or bicycle trailers.

Place them in or near the barrel in the Narthex. Stillwater Noon Rotary Club will collect and ship items to where they are needed in Africa.






### **Week at a Glance:**

**Finance Committee | Jan. 8, 5 pm | @ Church & Zoom**  
**Leadership Council | Jan. 8, 6:30 pm | @ Church & Zoom**  
**Choir Rehearsal | Jan. 8, 6:30 pm | @ Church**  
**Garden Gathering | Jan. 9, 9:30 am | @ Church**  
**Pastor Clare Out of Office | Jan. 12 - 15th**

Thank you to today's partners: Telae (Youth and Outreach Director), Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Lori Mildon (flute), Carol Dusbabek & Cindy Baker (greeters & communion servers), Jonah Gromoll (youth greeter), Sam Gromoll (acolyte), Kathleen Dennison (liturgist), St. Croix United Choir, Arly Fuhr & Kathy Iverson (fellowship), Jane Hanson & Sue Favilla (communion preparers), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie, Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (sanctuary organizer), Andi Favilla & Sharri Kinkead (altar decor)



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# As with Gladness Those of Old


159

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.


Matt. 2:1-12



1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
There to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;  
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
And when mor - tal things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last



So, true Morn - ing Star, may we ev - er - more your splen - dor see.  
So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.  
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.  
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo - ry hide.

After reading the Epiphany gospel, William C. Dix penned this hymn. Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted hymnwriter. Among his many fine contributions is "What Child Is This."

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7.7.  
Conrad Kocher, 1838  
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

# I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

**F** *Unison Introduction* **Refrain** **B $\flat$**  **C** **F**

"I am the light of the world!"

**B $\flat$**  **C** **F** **Gm** **Dm** **C**

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

**F** **Gm7** **C** **B $\flat$**  **F** **B $\flat$**  **F** *Last time, end*

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

**F** **B $\flat$ /D** **C** **F**

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the  
 2  $\gamma$  To find the lost and lone-ly one,  $\gamma$  to  
 3  $\gamma$  To free the pris-oner from all chains,  $\gamma$  to  
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do,  $\gamma$  to

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr.  
 Jim Strathdee, 1969

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, When the  
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To  
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -  
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the  
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To  
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to  
 make mu - sic in . . . an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C *Return to*

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:  
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!  
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!  
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!

## Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21**Ruth Duck, 1973*

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

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

*This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.*

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.  
*William Walter, 1872*

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