

# "I Believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace" Worship Service December 20, 2020

FELLOWSHIP TIME 9:30 WORSHIP TIME 10:00

Please put your Joys & Concerns in the zoom chat box  
Have your Advent display or candle available to light

**PRELUDE** "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
(Steve Haunschild)

**Prayer** - Nick Lima

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior. Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

By: Vanderbilt Divinity Library

**OPENING HYMN** Light of the World  
(You Tube)

**ADVENT LIGHTING** - Crete Family

Reader: We see the star rising

**All: We see the star rising**

Reader: We hear the glad tidings

**All: We hear the glad tidings**

Reader: We know we are not alone

**All: We know we are not alone**

Reader: As we together light the candle of Peace let us pray

Holy One,

we thank you for the glimpses we catch  
of your gift of peace on earth.

Even in the midst of fear,

of challenge, of struggle—

even when we aren't sure that

goodwill among us can be found,

ignite the flame of peace within us,

**All: ... that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.**

## **“I Believe”**

### **Joys & Concerns**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The Lord’s Prayer:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

### **PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS**

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH  
604 SEVEN MILE ROAD HOPE, RI. 02831  
401-821-8217  
[www.sovumc.org/give-now](http://www.sovumc.org/give-now)

### **DOXOLOGY**

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, these gifts are not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

#### **PRAYER CHANT**

“ Will We Be That Light”  
(you tube)

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! sunbursts of light!  
You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy. Oh, they’re so glad  
in your presence! Festival joy! The joy of a great celebration, sharing  
rich gifts and warm greetings. The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of  
tyrants—all their whips and cudgels and curses— Is gone, done away  
with, a deliverance as surprising and sudden as Gideon’s old victory over  
Midian. The boots of all those invading troops, along with their shirts  
soaked with innocent blood, Will be piled in a heap and burned, a fire

that will burn for days! For a child has been born—for us! the gift of a son—for us! He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness. His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings. He'll rule from the historic David throne over that promised kingdom. He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing and keep it going With fair dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always. The zeal of God-of-the-Angel-Armies will do all this.

### **John 1: 1-18**

The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one. Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!—came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out. There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light. The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light. He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him. But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten. The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. John pointed him out and called, "This is the One! The One I told you was coming after me but in fact was ahead of me. He has always been ahead of me, has always had the first word." We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift. We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving, This endless knowing and understanding—all this came through Jesus, the Messiah. No one has ever seen God, not so much as a glimpse. This one-of-a-kind God-Expression, who exists at the very heart of the Father, has made him plain as day.

**THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD  
THANKS BE TO GOD**

### **CHILDREN' PAGEANT      " A Christmas Adventure"**

(Sunday School)

**Litany of Belief** - Beth Travers (Sunday School Teacher)

Leader: I believe that humans have a penchant for selfishness which often leads to conflict:

**All: and continue to ignore issues that cause them pain or seem impossible.**

Leader: I believe that we have perpetrated deep suffering upon each other due to our overuse of natural resources and abuse of the Earth AND  
**All: Are failing to recognize the harm that we are inflicting upon ourselves because of our willful ignorance and refusal to change.**

Leader: I believe that we have perpetrated deep suffering upon each other due to our overuse of natural resources and abuse of the Earth AND  
**All: Will continue to do so if we do not face head on the issues of climate change and the damage that we are doing and will do to persons in poor countries and low lying lands.**

Leader: I believe that our fear has told us that we cannot do anything about this problem because it is too vast and too difficult HOWEVER  
**All: We serve a God who gives us wisdom and knowledge. The Scripture reminds us that there is nothing too hard for God and that if, as God's people, we repent God will hear from heaven and heal our land.**

Leader: I believe that as children of God we must seek God's forgiveness for what we have done to this Earth that we were gifted to as stewards AND  
**All: That God will forgive and heal us and direct us on how to live in this world and be faithful to every living thing upon it.**

**CLOSING HYMN**      "Go Tell it on the Mountain"  
(youtube)

## **BENEDICTION**

### **A Christmas Adventure Cast:**

AJ- wiseman      Xander- wiseman      Haley- wiseman      Lilian- Angel

Hazel- angel      Hannah- angel      Chris -kid 3      Lea- kid 1      Lexi - kid 2

Isabella- Shepherd 2      Paige- Shepherd 1      Casey- Donkey

Morgan- Narrator      Briella- Star      Callie- Mary      Caleb- Joseph

Corey- Reader 1 and 2      Natalia- Reader 3 and 4      Jason- Reader 5 and 6

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:**

**LISA      BETH      DOREEN      ALEX**