

Another Road

Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026

A wholeheartedly inclusive Christian community
called by a challenging and progressive faith
to live lives of love and justice

Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

Participant ID (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**

Meeting Password: **760760**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERIES

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

With Music

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Trad French Melody
Arr Lloyd Larson

With Meditation

Said the king to the people everywhere:

"Listen to what I say,

Pray for peace, people everywhere

Listen to what I say

The child, the child, sleeping in the night

He will bring us goodness and light

He will bring us goodness and light"

- Do You Hear What I Hear, vs. 4

*Please stand in body or spirit

INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

A CELEBATION AT EPIPHANY

(adapted) Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Christ is born. The wonder! The joy!
Stars sing brightly—
yes, light years away, they cheerfully sing.

**Oceans clap, winds dance,
and even the whales sing their song of praise
to welcome the holy child.
Earth turns to the sun,
reveling in the light.**

All Creation joys in wonder,
all Creation bows in awe,
how God so gently comes among us,
how love so beautifully blossoms here,
how grace and healing
make their home in this world.

**We tune our quiet hearts, then,
to hear the throng of heaven
all around us, deep within us,
rejoicing.
Hush, and listen: Alleluia!**

*HYMN

Arise, Your Light is Come #164

(see insert)

***SHARING GOD’S PEACE**

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

We share “happenings” in the community, and lift up concerns for prayer.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES

Reading from the Prophets

Isaiah 60:1-6

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

Following the Light

Rev. Edmonds

CALL TO COMMUNION

Do You Hear What I Hear

vs. 4 below

**Said the king to the people everywhere:
"Listen to what I say, (Listen to what I say)
Pray for peace, people everywhere
Listen to what I say, (Listen to what I say)
The child, the child, sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light"**

CONSECRATION MUSICAL REFLECTION AS WE PARTAKE

(an offering plate is available by the door in the Narthex or you may mail your gift)

Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow

Trad French Melody
Arr Lloyd Larson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

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, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN *As with Gladness Those of Old #159* (see insert)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *We Three Kings* John Henry Hopkins, Jr
Arr Patti Drennen

HAPPY NEW YEAR! (and a Blessed Epiphany!)

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity today! If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Pastor Dale!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

847-722-6756

PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

Acting Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

Acting Office Manager

Heather Hughes

Lay Officers

Council President

Treasurer

Church Email

Church Office Telephone

Church Office Hours

Church Website

Scott Peterson

Karen Kerschke

tuccdf@gmail.com

847-945-5050

Tue.–Wed. 9-12

trinitydeerfield.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2026

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Another Road

There's nothing more inviting than a candle's warm glow on a cold winter's night. The flickering flame dances as if being led by some divine melody. It's a light that calls to mind the opening of John's Gospel that speaks of a light in which no darkness can overcome.

Since the discovery of fire, a candle burning in the pitch black has always held symbolic hope. Back in the day, placing a candle in the window announced there was a birth in the house. It was also a sign of someone's passing or a remembrance of a loved one. During the persecution of Catholic priests in Ireland, a candle in the window let a priest know that the home was a place of refuge.

We all need a candle burning in the window guiding us to our place of refuge, for we all seem to be groping in the dark these days, wandering for far too long on uncertain roads. Where is that spark of hope leading us to a place of belonging?

Long after the Christmas season of light is over, I continue to embrace every opportunity I have to light candles. With a strike of a match, darkened nooks in my home magically come to life. I also find a soothing calmness wash over me while watching a candle burn. The limited reach of its flame is my reminder to stop trying to see so far ahead. Rather, trust what the light is revealing, no matter how narrow or short the path it illuminates is. It's then I realize I don't need search lights to be found. All I need is the Christ light shining on me.

There's a poem by Howard Thurman who writes about lighting candles all year long. In it he encourages us all to light "candles of joy, despite the sadness; candles of hope where despair keeps watch; candles of peace for tempest-tossed days; candles of grace to ease heavy burdens; and candles of love to inspire all my living."

There's a light to be found in the world — one that the darkness will not overcome. May we do our part in keeping the light of Christ burning brightly in 2026.

Loving God, help us be the ones who light the candles of joy, hope, peace, grace and love this year, illuminating the darkness for those who are lost and shining a beacon of welcome to those who are lonely. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



Prayer Concerns

Paula Blanchard, cousin of Jean Harris, who has had a recurrence of brain cancer
Walter Eduardo Jimenez and all those now living in fear...

Joyce Black, friend of Marge Magnani

Prayers for wisdom and trust for father and son Manuel Lomeli and Alex Lomeli,
each of whom is dealing with serious heart health issues

Prayers of celebration for Peter & Barbie Reynolds, friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who
were released by the Taliban in Afghanistan and are now living in England

Jim Litchfield in his extended recovery from back surgery

David Bunce and Steve Schoonmaker, two friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who are both
struggling with cancer

Carol Wells in her season of grief

The Family of Adrianne Mazura, friend of Lucy, who succumbed to breast cancer

Bill and Roseann Stenzel

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

Skip Hahn

Nancy Rose, Barbara Struthers' sister

Irene Santos and Family on the sudden passing of her brother

Carmen Ruiz & Fernando Rodriguez, Barbara Struthers' daughter-in-law's parents
in Puerto Rico

The People of Ukraine and Leaders of all nations

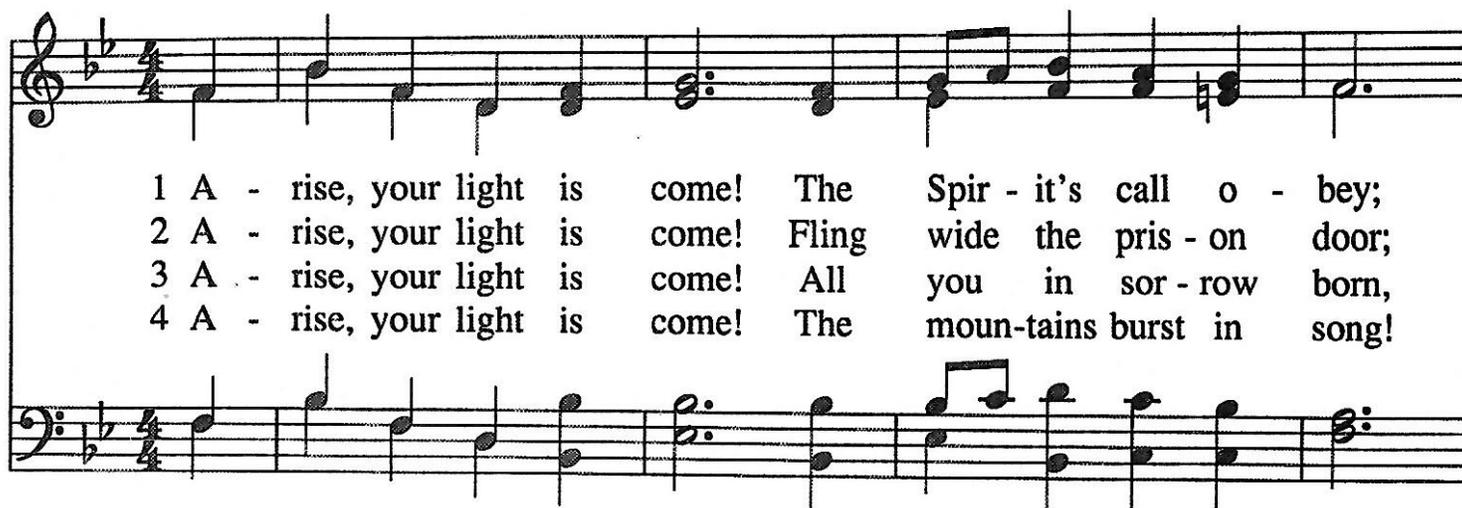
For youth who feel alienated or without hope

For all whose lives are torn by disasters of human making

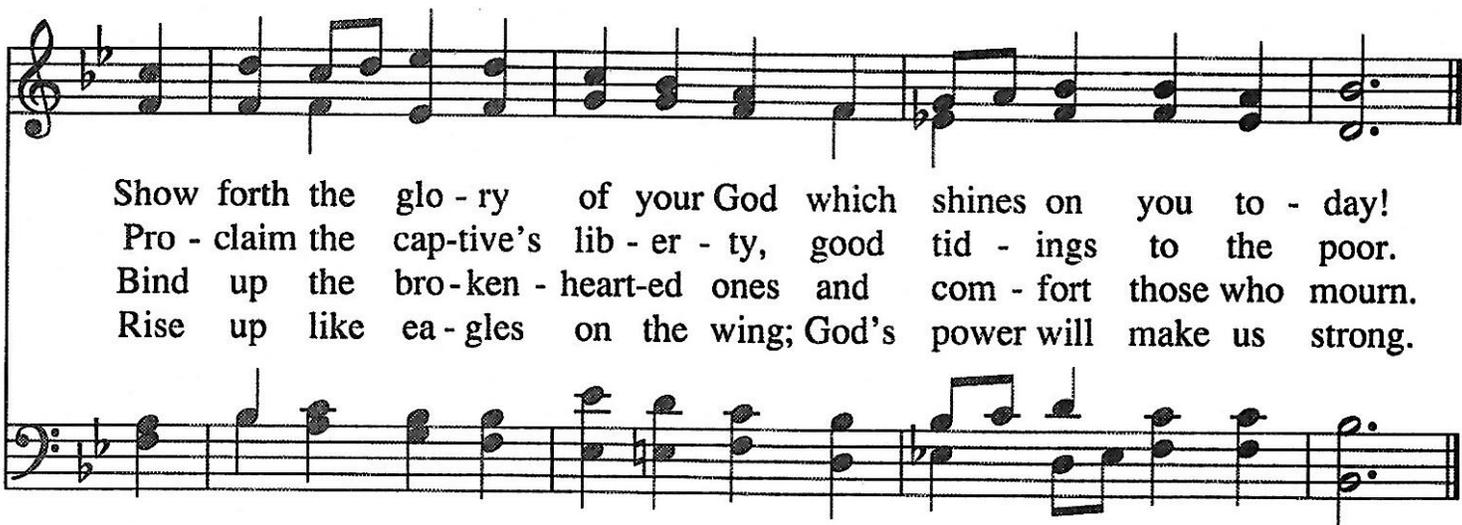
For those suffering devastation in the Middle East

***Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**

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

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