Westminster Presbyterian Church

LITURGY FOR JANUARY 3, 2021
EPIPHANY

Gathering Words **Cheryl and Bill Weiss**

Arise, Shine; for your light has come!
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Nations will come to his light,
and rulers will seek his radiance.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

He will judge the people with righteousness
And defend the cause of the poor.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The mystery of the ages is revealed;
The eternal plan of God is known to all.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us give him honor, glory and praise
And offer him all the treasures of our hearts and lives
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Opening Prayer **Cheryl and Bill Weiss**

O God of light and peace,
whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,
still draws the nations to yourself.
Dispel the darkness that shrouds our path,
that we may come
to kneel before Christ in true worship,
offer him our hearts and souls,
and return from his presence to live as he has taught.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 159 O Sing A Song of Bethlehem KINGSFOLD

1 O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today.
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing alway.

2 O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the ginless boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow.
Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.

3 O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
Of him who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still.
For though, the waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.

4 O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
Of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.

Prayer of Illumination **Joel Chupp**

Scripture Reading John 1:1-18 **Joel Chupp**

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning
with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has
come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose
name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself
was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into
the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who
believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of
the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen
his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

15(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me
because he was before me.'") 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was
given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God. It is God the only
Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon Living in the Light **Joel Chupp**

Hymn There is Room at The Table Carrie Newcomer

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe,
for your star shines still in the night sky,
guiding your people in paths of love and justice.

In the beginning, you brought light into darkness,
and created a people to reflect your glory.
When we have lost our way or turned away,
you shone the light all the brighter,
calling us through the words of prophets
and even in the life of your Son,
who was born as we are born, breathed and ate and walked and lived as we do,

you revealed your way—
a way to life in fullness.

And even now, your Spirit burns like flame
in our hearts
in the community
in your word
at this table.

As we come, drawn to the warmth and wonder,
we pray for your light to shine gently on those wounded places of our hearts,
for we carry burdens of shame, of hurt, of grief, of fear.
We carry a world crying out, longing for relief—from the Covid virus,
from violence and hatred, apathy and disgust, power misused, and people treated as disposable.

Give us courage to stand and see, to refuse to be consoled,
until your creation is healed by the hot light of your justice.
When we shade our eyes against the brightness of your way,
help us see what you see.
When we assume the end of the story,
remind us that you, not we, are the author.
When we are tempted to settle into a comfortable routine
of selfishness, hopelessness, or convenience,
awaken us to your new thing,
and make us partners in your creating.

As we break bread together,
may our hearts be broken with yours.
As we who are many are gathered like grain into one body,
may your Spirit knit us together.
As we bring the gifts we have to offer
may our hearts be open to receive your gift once again this day,
and may your church be strengthened to be a gift to your world.
As we share the same meal you, Lord, have shared
with disciples, with enemies, with the church through the ages,
may our eyes be opened and may we recognize you.
We pray these and all things in the name of Jesus Emmanuel, God with Us, who taught us to pray together, saying:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 475 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON

1 Come thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Benediction **Joel Chupp**

Note: Gathering Words and Opening Prayer were adapted from Thom Schuman, the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving from Teri Peterson.