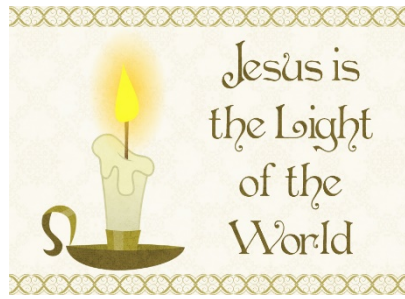


# The Light of the World is Jesus



## + The People of Mount Zion-Finksburg +

The Second Sunday after The Epiphany + January 15, 2023+ Worship 9:55 a.m.

Leslie Gabler, Director of Music

Ushers Barbara & Bob Hayes

### TODAY'S KEY PASSAGES OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

- (1) "Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8.12
- (2) "What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and darkness did not overcome it." John 1.3b
- (3) "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on a lampstand and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way let your light shine before others and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5.14-16
- (4) "He has told you, O mortal, what is good and what does the Lord require of you. But to do justice (fairness), and to love kindness (love to others) and walk humbly with your God (obedience)." Micah 6.8

**Musical Prelude** Let us prepare for the worship of God by listening. + God is still speaking +  
Congregation Singing "This is The Day" Hymnal #657

### Welcome (Pastor)

As we enter the season of Epiphany, O God  
we humbly admit

We are still people walking in the dark,  
and the darkness looms large around us,  
beset as we are by fear, anxiety, brutality, violence, loss —  
a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.

And yet you invite us to leave the darkness and be people of your light.

To walk in the light. To reflect your light.

So we pray for the light of your glorious presence  
as we wait for your appearing;

we pray for the light of your wondrous grace we pray for your gift of newness that  
will override our weariness;

we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust  
in your good rule.

Be with your people O God, Be with your people. Amen

**Hymn** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, I Want to Follow Jesus" #206 U.M. Hymnal

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

As we sing this beautiful hymn we light the Christ Candle as a present reminder that Jesus is the light of the word, and the darkness of the world will never put it out!"

## **Congregation Call to Worship (Unison)**

In this Epiphany season of joy, hope and love  
We have been called, as the people of God, to seek the light  
Not just any light, but the light of our Lord

In our own lives and in our families, we are called to seek the light  
In our neighborhoods and in communities, we are called to seek the light  
In our play, in our work and in our leisure, we are called to seek the light  
Here, at Mount Zion for all our people, we are called to seek the light  
In our nation and in world, we are called to seek the light  
Just like the Magi of old, we are called to seek the light

Jesus said. seek and you shall find  
Knock and the door will be opened, ask and it will be given to you  
Jesus the Christ, our long awaited Messiah, you are the light of the world  
May we have eyes to see you  
And ears to hear you  
Come into our world today and let us reflect your light  
So let it be. Shine Jesus Shine!

## **We Welcome our Children**

*Even if we do not have children in congregational worship we remember all God's children.*  
"This Is Where Children Belong" #2233 "The Faith We Sing" songbook  
"This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer and song. This is where children belong."

## **Informal Moments + Reception of our Tithes & Offerings**

Offering Response (Hymnal #94) "Praise God" with Alleluias

## **Hymn** "Shine, Jesus, Shine" (#2173 "the Faith We Sing" (black) songbook)

**Anthem** ("We all have) A Place at the Table." For everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing. For everyone born we all have a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born the right to be free."

## **Video** "We Shall Overcome" (Morehouse College Glee Club)

"We Shall Overcome" is a gospel song which became a protest song and a key anthem of the American civil rights movement. The song is most commonly attributed as being lyrically descended

from "I'll Overcome Some Day", a hymn by Charles Albert Tindley that was first published in 1901. The modern version of the song was first said to have been sung by tobacco workers led by Lucille Simmons during the 1945–1946 Charleston Cigar Factory strike in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1947,

**Message** We believe Jesus is the “Light of the World” and that has called his followers to reflect his light in the world by our actions.

**Closing Scripture** from the Prophets Amos and Micah

Amos “Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts will be with you just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate, it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph”

I hate I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings I will not accept them; and the off springs of wellbeing of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs, I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters and the righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

Micah: “The Lord shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more, but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig tree and no one shall make them afraid’ for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.”

He has told you, O mortal one, what is good and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.”

**Morning Prayer and our Lord’s Prayer** (Unison)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

*Let us pray the “Our Father” together)*

Our Father, which 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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

**Closing Hymn** “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” #251 U.M. Hymnal

**Closing Words – Sending Forth** (Benediction)

(based on Isaiah 9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in deepest night, are lit up with a brilliant sight.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

The spread of his influence and of his peace will never end.

Therefore, go out into the world with great joy, and the (1) grace of  
Bethlehem's matchless Child,  
(2) the love of the God who never ceases to amaze, and (3) the fellowship of the  
Spirit who never wearies,  
will be with you this day and evermore. **Thanks be to God!**