

*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
The Sixth Sunday in the Season of Epiphany,
February 12, 2023
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Prelude: *Light of the World*

We the Kingdom: <https://youtu.be/tWeXVnRm6R8>

Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 634 *To God Be the Glory*

<https://youtu.be/JwI7TuLaPFs> - A Cappella Hymns

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

**To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

Refrain:

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!**

**Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]**

Call to Worship:

Look forward in faith, for God's word will light the path.

God's promise is trustworthy and true!

Look forward in hope, for God is always doing a new thing.

God's steadfast love will lead the way.

Look forward in faith, for God's glory will shine in the darkness.

God's grace is alive, and draws us onward.

Hymn of Praise # 314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

<https://youtu.be/oH0FMhH7DrU> - Bernadette Farrell, Frank Brownstead Choir

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

**Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

[Refrain]

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. [Refrain]

Call to Confession:

To come before God with the truth of our lives is itself an act of faith: we trust that the Holy One is interested in us, interested in our minds and hearts and souls. We trust that God's mercy and grace are intended for us, too. With faith and in trust, let us make our confession before God and each other.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Your light shines in the darkness, O God, and we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of darkness, where we are free to participate in injustice, to hurt others and ourselves, to do whatever it takes to get ahead, to operate only in our comfort zone without challenge. We forget that your light of true freedom will shine, calling us to a more excellent way. We forget that In Christ, there is more beyond us, beyond our desires, beyond our brokenness, beyond our understanding. Forgive our short-sightedness. Forgive our hardened hearts. Forgive our complicity in systems that hurt and abuse your earth, your people, your church, your world. Shine your light again this day, that we may see and follow your path (moment of silent confession). In the name of Christ, the Light of the World, we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends, hear this good news and see the grace of God: We are forgiven and we are free to go and live in the light of love. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 215 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

https://youtu.be/u_0AX5Opps0

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:6-11

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Special Music: *This Little Light of Mine*

Bruce Springsteen with the Sessions Band: <https://youtu.be/R0qAYq1GVec>

Second Lesson: Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "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 the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Sermon: "Salt and Light" (PDF attachment and Zoom Recording)
Campbell

Rev. Kathy

Affirmation of Faith (unison) Confession of Belhar:

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.
This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.
We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the communion of saints called from the entire human family.
We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church
as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.**

Hymn of Meditation # 700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*
<https://youtu.be/NNIZcw4cfYY> - The Lorenz Corporation

I'M GONNA LIVE

**I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Prayers of the People:

God of Life and Love,
in spoken words and in the silence of our hearts,
we give you thanks for all of life,
for the grace you provide to creation in its diversity,
and for your loving kindness known in the details of our lives.
Hear us, we pray, as we speak of matters on our hearts and minds this day:

Where the church is divided by squabbling or deep disagreement,
where Christians emphasize differences that divide instead of seeking unity in Christ,
transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Where families are divided by old hurts or new tensions,
where friendships have ended through misunderstanding or neglect,
where relationships have been severed by betrayal or thoughtlessness:
transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Where countries are torn by war and conflict,
where communities are divided by prejudice or unexamined privilege,
where leaders provoke anger instead of building understanding co-operation:
transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Where people are shattered by natural disasters
including earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and famine in Africa,
where aid is slow to come or does not come at all,
transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Where the poor and lonely find little support or comfort,
where people are tired from overwork or pressured by rising costs;
where workers fear for their jobs in the present or the future;
transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Where people suffer pain with physical, emotional or spiritual roots,
Where loss marks the beginning and ending of every day,
Where young people fear for the future of the planet

and their elders mourn the loss of what they once assumed would last:

Transform us and make all things new.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God, our Source and Savior, in Christ you make all things new.

And so, united in one voice, we pray the words he taught us:

Our Father...Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

We sing our praises to the Lord, for God is good and worthy! We give our whole selves—our talents and material possessions—to the Church with the expectation that they will be used to further God's dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you're able. Let us receive this morning's offering.

Doxology # 606

https://youtu.be/ILdeoa_2kdY - The St. Mary Magdalene Church Choir, Orange, California

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Illuminating God, thank you for the ways you encourage us to let your light shine within us and in your world. Please accept these gifts, multiply them, and help us to use them wisely, that your light and love may be seen and celebrated, day by day. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *Called As Partners in Christ's Service

Plymouth United Church of Christ: <https://youtu.be/GyzwOew3pVI>

**Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.**

**May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.**

**Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together, gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.**

**Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.**

Charge and Benediction:

Just as God's Word was sent into the world
to heal and redeem,
so God sends you into the world this day

to be salt and light, healing and hope.
And may the grace and peace of God the Creator,
the Redeemer, and the Sustainer
come upon you this day
and remain with you always. Amen.

Postlude: *Amazing Grace with He Is Lord*

Steph McLeod with Celtic Worship and Friends: <https://youtu.be/MOiKZKV3vxl>