

A CANDLELIGHT LITURGY OF CHANT

Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.



CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcometocentral.org
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, Oregon

Light and Hope Amid Our Darkness

This evening service of light amidst the darkness names the theological conviction that Jesus is the light of the world that shines in the darkness of the world. Jesus' light is the hope and joy of the world, but the darkness of the world itself remains.

We come this evening all feeling aspects of that darkness from various aspects of our life and the deep emotions we hold within them. Feelings of exhaustion, anger, contempt, fear, anxiety, resignation, despair, suffering, bodily weakness and injury, grief, loss, estrangement and broken relationships, isolation, loneliness, and hopelessness. These feelings are prompted by circumstances around us, but those circumstances remind us of the deep wounds and pain we hold within ourselves.

This service calls upon ancient wisdom and mystery for light and hope. The Gregorian chant music invites us to reflect upon the mystery and presence of God in this space. We invite you to contemplate who God is in your life, to find your grounding in your being at the foot of the cross, and to discover there the beam of light that really is light – Jesus Christ in this world. We hold that though the darkness seems it is deepening in our person, God abides with us and enlightens our very beings so that the darkness does not overwhelm us. Rather, the light of Christ is within us.

Let us fill our hearts with God's peace.

PRAYERS

O Lord, open thou our lips. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning is now, and shall be world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.

PHOS HILARON

O gracious light, pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven. O Jesus Christ, Holy and Blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing thy praises, O God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices. O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the world.

PSALM 88 *sung to the second Gregorian psalm tone.*

1. O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee; O let my prayer enter into thy presence incline thine ear unto my calling.
2. For my soul is full of trouble and my life draweth nigh unto hell.

3. I am counted as one of them that go down into the pit and I have been even as a man that hath no strength.
4. Free among the dead, like unto them that are wounded, and lie in the grave who are out of remembrance, and are cut away from thy hand.
5. Thou has laid me in the lowest pit. In a place of darkness and in the deep.
6. Thine indignation lieth hard upon me and thou hast vested me with all thy storms.
7. Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me and made me to be abhorred of them
8. I am so fast in prison that I cannot get forth.
9. My sight faileth for every trouble Lord, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched forth my hands unto thee.
10. Dost thou show wonders among the dead or shall the dead rise up again, and praise thee?
11. Shall thy loving kindness be shown in the grave or thy faithfulness in destruction?
12. Shall thy wondrous works be know in the dark and thy righteousness in the land where all things are forgotten?
13. Unto thee have I cried, O Lord and early shall my prayer come before thee
14. Lord, why abhorrest thou my soul and hidest thou thy face from me?
15. I am in misery, and like unto him that is at the point to die even from my youth thy terrors have I suffered with a troubled mind.
16. Thy wrathful displeasure goeth over me and the fear of thee hath undone me.
17. They came round about me daily like water and compressed me together on every side.
18. My lovers and friends hast thou put away from me and hid mine acquaintance out of my sight.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning is now, and shall be world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

³Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

⁵For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

⁶For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

MAGNIFICAT *sung to plainchant mode 8*

1. My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

2. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

3. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed

4. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name

5 And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

6. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

7. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.

8. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.

9 He remembering his mercy hath helped his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.

MOTET *Beate quorum via – Charles Stanford*

Happy are they that are upright in the way, who walk in the ways of the Lord.

SECOND LESSON 1 John 1:1-7; 2: 7-14

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

²(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

- ⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
- ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:
- ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
- ⁷ Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.
- ⁸ Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.
- ⁹ He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.
- ¹⁰ He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.
- ¹¹ But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.
- ¹² I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.
- ¹³ I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.
- ¹⁴ I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

NUNC DIMITTIS *sung to plainchant mode 7*

1. Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word;
2. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
3. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PSALM 27 *sung to Anglican chant by Hopkins and Wolstenhomle*

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation whom then shall I fear; The Lord is the strength of my life of whom then shall I be afraid?
2. When evildoers, even mine enemies and my foes came upon me to devour my flesh; they stumbled and fell.

3. Though a host of people were laid against me yet shall not my heart be afraid and though there rose up strife against me yet will I put my trust in him.
 4. One thing have I desired of the Lord which I will require; even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life to behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to visit his temple.
 5. For in the time of trouble God shall hide me in his tabernacle, yea in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me and set me up upon a rock of stone.
 6. And now shall God lift up mine head above mine enemies round about me.
 7. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness; I will sing and speak praises unto the Lord.
 8. Hearken unto my voice O Lord when I cry unto you. Have mercy upon me and hear me.
 9. My heart has talked of you, seek ye my face, your face Lord will I seek.
 10. O hide not your face from me: nor cast your servant away in displeasure.
 11. You have been my succor leave me not neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
 12. When my father and my mother forsake me; the Lord takes me up.
 13. Teach me thy way O Lord; and lead me into the right way because of my enemies.
 14. Deliver me not over into the will of my adversaries: for there are false witnesses risen up against me and such as speak wrong.
 15. I should utterly have fainted but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
 16. O tarry in the Lord's pleasure: be strong and God shall comfort your heart and put your trust in the Lord.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.

MOTET Ubi caritas – Duruflé

Where there is charity and love, God is there. May we also see, along with the blessed, the glory of your face, O Christ. And let there be immeasurable joy both now and forevermore. Amen.

PRAYERS

The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray as Je - sus taught us.

Our - Fa - ther in heav - ven hal - lowed be - your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin - a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil, For the king - dom, the pow'r

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men. -

O Lord show thy mercy upon us. And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord give us hope. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Enlighten our hearts. And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people. And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord. Because there is none other that fighteth for us
but only thou, O God.

O God make clean our hearts within us. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

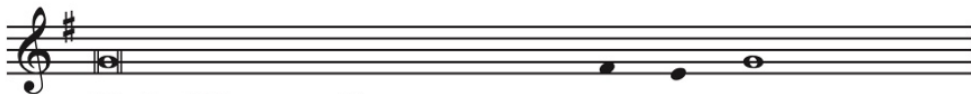
Light of the world that shines among us, we come as a people in deep darkness lost
and searching for hope. In the brightness of the day we can fail to notice your brilliant
light, but in the depth of our own darkness your light brightens our being.

In the name of the God who created light. Amen.

Light of life that brightens our beings, provide us that light in our depths that provides us the hope and peace that passes our own understanding because of the places in the world and in our lives that we simply cannot understand. Allow the dawn of your presence into those spaces to remain with us and give us peace. In the name of the God who is light made flesh among us. Amen.

Light of souls wandering in darkness, when the darkness deepens so profoundly that we cannot even fathom your light, make us aware of the light we cannot see and make us to know that your presence abides with us beyond our perception. Be with us. Live in us. Enlighten us with hope. In the name of the God who enlightens the world with your Spirit. Amen.

BENEDICTION



The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you
with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and✠ give you peace.



MOTET: Deo gratias (*Thanks be to God*)- William Byrd



Participants

Pastor Laurie Jones, Pastor Ben Nickodemus
Organist/Choirmaster Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Cantors in the Schola (group singing plainchant):

Sopranos: Naomi Castro, Taylor Hulett
Altos: Alyse Jamieson, Patricia Dewey Lambert
Tenors: David Gustafson & Steve Rodgers
Basses: Dylan Buntun, Blake Hodgetts, John Shields