



GRACE UNITED CHURCH Worship Service

January 15, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Minister: Rev. Ken MacDonald

Guest Minister: Rev. Dr. Thomas Shin

Lay Presider: Joyce Redford

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Gathering Music: Grace Band

Day by Day
Holy, Holy, Holy

Oscar Ahnfelt
J. Dykes

Welcome & Announcements *Presider*

Acknowledgment of the Traditional Land *Presider*

Lighting the Christ Candle:

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in this worship. May its light lead our spirits in the service, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.

Call to Worship:

One: People of God, arise, shine, for your light has come!

All: The light of Christ has come into the world.

One: We will follow the light – when it shines brightly in the night sky, when it glows dimly on the horizon.

All: We will follow the light – and when we see the Christ child, may our hearts be overwhelmed with joy.

One: When our journey brings us, finally, to the heart of God,

All: May our hands open in generous sharing; may our mouths open in generous praise. Amen.

Praise & Worship 1: Praise Team

1. Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

VU #264

2. Every Praise

Hezekiah Walker

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer:

God of starlight, disperse the shadow of our lives, that we may behold the light of your glory shining in every corner of the world. Guide our footsteps in the paths of righteousness, that justice may flourish, and peace may abound. Help us follow the wise of old, that through our own journeys of faith, we may behold the mystery known in the coming of the infant Jesus. Renew our hearts and minds. Reveal your wildest dreams. Transform each of us through your Spirit and Truth so that we may embrace your future and be your loving church. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, we confess that we have not always lived in ways that reflect God's love for all; We have not always lived as people assured of our place in God's heart; We have not always lived as disciples of Jesus; We have not always lived as people of the Resurrection. In quietness we remember those thoughts, actions and words that have marred your image in us, hurt others and damaged the world. Gracious God release us and grant us mercy. Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. As you genuinely repent and turn from your old self, according to the promise of Christ Jesus, you are forgiven!

Special Music (Kay Bingham): Mary did you know? Greene/Lowry

Time for Youth & Young at Heart

(Children leave for Sunday School)

TO DISCOVER THE WORD OF GOD FOR TODAY

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-16

Sheila Hill

One: Hear what the spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God!

Message: The Great Paradox

Rev. Dr. Thomas Shin

TO RESPOND IN FAITH AND HOPE

Offering Invitation:

Giving is an act of faith. We believe that what we have to offer makes a difference in this world. But more than that, we believe in the One who is behind our giving. As you give, your gifts will serve this community of faith, support Grace's wider mission, and provide the light of hope to the people in darkness.

Offertory Music: Sheep May Safely Graze

J. S. Bach

Offertory Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Praise & Worship 2: Praise Team

3. Shout to The Lord

Darlene Zschech

4. Cornerstone Led by Jennifer Quigley

Hillsong Music

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO LIVE ITS FAITH IN THE WORLD

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude: Praise Him and Lift Him Up

G. Oliver