

Welcome! We are so glad you've chosen to worship with us today. This is the Lord's house, and here everyone is truly welcome. Our doors, our hearts, and our minds are open to you. We invite you to make yourself at home in this sacred space, and to join fully in worship as we sing, pray, and praise God together. When you see an asterisk (*) in the bulletin, please stand as you are able—your presence and participation bring life and joy to our worship.

Gathering

"Shout to the Lord"

TFWS 2074

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands, forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Welcome and Announcements

Phillip Choate

Prelude and Receiving the Light of Christ

Jill Jones-Lazuka & Acolyte

*Call to Worship

Leader: Children of God, when fears press in on every side,
we can proclaim with confidence:

People: God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?

Leader: When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

People: God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

Leader: No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

People: God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.

Leader: Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

People: We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Hymn of Praise

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

TFWS 2173

Refrain:

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

**Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me. (Refrain)**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me. (Refrain)**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lived tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. (Refrain)**

Hymn of Preparation

"My Hope is Built"

UMH 368

* Responsive Reading

Psalm 27

UMH 758

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: When evildoers assail me, to devour my flesh, my adversaries and foes shall stumble and fall.

People: Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

Leader: One thing I asked the Lord, that will I seek after:

People: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in the Lord's temple.

Leader: The Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble, will conceal me under the cover of his tent, and will set me high upon a rock.

People: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; and I will offer sacrifices in the Lord's tent with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Leader: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

People: "Come," my heart said, "seek the Lord's face." Your face, O Lord, I seek.

Leader: Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, for you have been my help.

People: Cast me not off, forsake me not, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother should forsake me, the Lord would take me up.

Leader: Teach me your way, O Lord; and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

People: Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

Leader: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

People: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord!

Message

Frances Eldridge

