



*First English Lutheran Church*

# LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

## *A Service of Lessons & Carols*

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

**PRELUDE**                      *"Go Tell It On the Mountain"*   - arr. Mark Hayes                      Kathy Illa, piano

**DIALOGUE** (based on Ps. 18:28; 27:1; 97:11; 119:105; 36:9; and Isa. 2:5)

It is you who light my lamp; you, my God,  
who lights up the darkness.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?**

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

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

**O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

**GATHERING CAROL**                      *"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"*                      ELW 308

1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and light,  
a glow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's line, King David's son,  
Our Lord and Savior, you have won our hearts to serve you only!  
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!
2. Come precious diamond, light divine, and deep with in our hearts now shine;  
there light a flame undying! In your one body let us be as living branches of a tree,  
your life our lives supplying. Now, though daily earth's deep sadness may perplex us  
and distress us, yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.

3. Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure.  
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with heav'nly food.  
You are our dearest treasure! Let your mercy warm and cheer us!  
Oh, draw near us! For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **LESSON: GENESIS 1:1-5**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

***Darkness. Out of darkness, light dawns.  
The first rays of dawn are enough to stir our soul.  
We know, from the first hint of light, what is to come.  
We watch as the light overtakes the darkness.  
The night is no match for the light of dawn.  
Soon, the warmth and light of dawn surrounds us, envelops us, we breath deeply.  
We live in the light.***

#### **FIRST REFLECTION**

**CAROL:** "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" ELW 284

1. "Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,  
that God the Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead;  
before their lights the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:  
**Refrain: Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!**
4. O children of the forest free, the angel song is true; the holy child of earth  
and heav'n is born today for you. Come, kneel before the radiant boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace and joy. **Refrain.**

#### **LESSON: ISAIAH 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

***Advent. Christmas. Birth. Dawn. "I am the light of the world."  
The first rays of this dawn, this light, are enough to stir our soul.  
We know, from the first hint of this light, what is to come.  
This light will overtake all darkness. We breath deeply.  
We live in this light.***

## **SECOND REFLECTION**

**CAROL:** *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* ELW 272

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flower so bright,  
amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
2. Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.
3. This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

**LESSON:** **1 JOHN 1:5-9**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

***Hope. Hope blooms. With the dawning of light, hope blooms  
Light brings life to the world. Flowers open and face the source of life.  
There is hope in the dawn, for the light of the day nourishes all living things.  
The wonders of creation dance around us. We sway to the rhythm.  
We live in hope.***

## **THIRD REFLECTION**

**CAROL:** *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"* ELW 815

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

**Refrain:** **In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness,  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. **Refrain.**
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain.**

**LESSON:** **JOHN 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the begin-

ning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. 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 the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

***Hope. Hope blooms. With the dawning of the light, hope blooms.  
"I am the light of the world." With this light, in Christ, we see anew.  
We are able to see more clearly. And what do we see?  
We see the world. And it is good. We see our neighbor.  
And we are filled with love. We breathe deeply. We live in this hope.***

#### **FOURTH REFLECTION**

##### **CAROL:**

*"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"*

ELW 301

1. Bright and glorious is the sky, radiant are the heavens high where the golden stars are shining.  
All their rays to earth inclining beckon us to heaven above, beckon us to heaven above.
2. On that holy Christmas night through the darkness beamed a light; all the stars above were paling,  
all their luster slowly failing as the wondrous star drew nigh, as the wondrous star drew nigh.
3. Sages from the east afar, when they saw this wondrous star, went to find the king of nations and to offer  
their oblations to the child, the newborn king, to the child, the newborn king.
4. Him they found in Bethlehem, yet he wore no diadem; there they saw a maiden lowly with an infant  
pure and holy resting in her loving arms, resting in her loving arms.

#### **THE OFFERING**

##### **SPECIAL MUSIC:**

*"Panis Angelicus"* (Bread of the Angels) - Cesar Franck

Performed by Jill Serres, cello

#### **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

##### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

##### **BENEDICTION**

May the light of Christ guide us safely through the gift of a new year. Live as a child of the light.