

Planner Sally Eales

Light Shines in the Darkness

January 5, 2020

Prelude

Songs of Joy

“Joy to the World” #408

“Good Christian Friends. Rejoice” #433

Welcome and Call to Worship – (Presider’s Choice)

\*Hymn “Oh Lord Bless Our Communion” #80

\*Prayer of Invitation

\*Response

Prayer for Peace

*Light the Peace Candle.*

Statement

At the beginning of a new year, seeing the fresh pages of a new calendar may give us hope that this year things will be better, that this year perhaps peace among family, friends, neighbors and nations will become a reality. If we’re waiting for others to make that happen, we’ve not caught the vision of what we are called to do.

Scripture Reading: Doctrine and Covenants 163:3a

You are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate. The hope of Zion is realized when the vision of Christ is embodied in communities of generosity, justice, and peacefulness.

Prayer for Peace

God of all nations and peoples, in the midst of a world torn by strife, hate, violence, and death we know that you desire life, love and peace for everyone born. We pray that you will help us discern what each of us can do to bring life, love and peace where we live. Augment our efforts on your behalf and let there be peace on Earth. We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Reading John 1:1-18

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.**

Communion Message

Preparation of the Emblems

Hymn "Is There One Who Feels Unworthy" #526

Invitation to Communion

**All are welcome at Christ's table. The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is a sacrament in which we remember the life, death, resurrection, and continuing presence of Jesus Christ. In Community of Christ, we also experience Communion as an opportunity to renew our baptismal covenant and to be formed as disciples who live Christ's mission. Others may have different or added understandings within their faith traditions. We invite all who participate in the Lord's Supper to do so in the love and peace of Jesus Christ**

Blessing and Serving of the Bread and Wine

*Focus Moment*

***Arrange for the sanctuary lights to be dimmed or turned off. Have them turned on again before the closing hymn.***

People in the Northern Hemisphere are experiencing a time of year when there are more hours of darkness than light. On this second Sunday after Christmas it is easy to lose sight

of the light that came into the world with the birth of Jesus. It is easy to feel that we are living in dark times. We have been reminded in the text from John that what came into being through Jesus was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Mosiah added this affirmation: "He is the light and the life of the world, a light that is endless, that can never be darkened; and also a life which is endless, that there can be no more death." (Mosiah 8:82)

While music is playing, I invite you to pick up one of the candles placed around the worship space and turn it on to help us remember that the Light has come into the world, darkness will not overcome it, death has been defeated.

***Organ or piano music plays quietly during this activity.***

Disciples Generous Response

\*Hymn            "God the Source of Light and Beauty"            #593

\*Sending Forth Statement and Scripture

\*Doctrine and Covenants 157:16

**"In the many places where you are called to labor, the forces of darkness and destruction are active indeed, and seem to hold sway. Your hearts are burdened by the magnitude of the task that are yours in bringing the light of my gospel into such darkness.**

**Nevertheless, I have heard your prayers when you have cried out to me, and I have been with you in the places where you occupy. I am aware of your desires to serve me and my assurance is that as you go forth, your offerings of faith and service are acceptable to me.**

\*Postlude