



January 23, 2022

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
January 23, 2022
The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of the infant Christ, the babe in the manger, our Saviour.

We gather in community today – January 23, 2022 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

As we gather this day, in the season after Epiphany, we focus on the gifts we have received from God, and how to offer our response.

Announcements

- **Week of Guided Prayer and Spiritual Exploration**

February 27 to March 5, 2022 - *Hope and Resilience in Uncertain Times Presented by the Guelph Ecumenical Guild of Ignatian Spiritual Direction*. Enrich your spiritual life.

The Week of Guided Prayer is an opportunity to learn more about prayer, explore your spirituality, and develop and deepen a relationship with God.

Listening, reflection and awareness are at the heart of the Week.

Information and registration at www.guidedprayer.webs.com **Register by Feb. 21, 2022**

- **2021-2022 Gifts with Vision** catalogues are out. These gifts are perfect for those difficult to buy for people. There's no going out, no standing in line, no wrapping. And you will be helping out those in need near and far. Items address healing and reconciliation, leadership, counter racism, wellness and safe spaces, education, poverty and hunger, the future, Mission & Service. Gifts range from \$5 to \$140. Gifts include food for the north, help build a well, purchasing Covid vaccines for the Global South and East, and much more. You can find the full catalogue at www.giftswithvision.ca.
- We continue to **collect items for the food bank**. A list of the most needed items was sent out, and if you need a printed copy, just let someone on the Social Justice team or Rev. Lynda know, and we will get it to you. In addition to non-perishable food items, the food bank is also looking for personal and feminine hygiene products as well as fresh vegetables, apples and oranges.

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

Land Acknowledgement *Peter Chynoweth, Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2021, p.25. Used with permission.*

Land is sacred and holy.

Our relationship to the land is sacred and holy.

Our relationship with each other on this land is sacred and holy.

It calls for respect and appreciation.

And so we offer our appreciation, our thanksgiving, and our respect

that we can gather in this place and on this land

as a result of the welcome that comes through the Haldimand Treaty and the Simcoe Patent -

Treaty No. 4,

which allow for peaceful and respectful living on this land.

Thanks to the

Petun,

Haudenosaunee,

Anishinabewaki,

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,

Odawa and

Mississauga people

who have lived on and walked these lands for thousands of years.

We acknowledge that we are connected with the people who have lived here for all these years because of the treaties.

Because we are treaty people, we must honour the responsibilities that come with it.

May we be people who remember this with gratitude and respect.

Sharing the Light:

(If you are watching this on-line or reading it from a page I invite you to take a moment to light a candle, centre yourself and prepare to enter in to a time of worship and prayer. As you light your candle repeat the following words)

There once was someone who said such wonderful things and did such amazing things

teaching

healing

helping

loving

inviting everyone to join in

that people wondered who he was.

Finally they just couldn't help it. They had to ask him who he was.

When they asked him who he was, he said, "I am the light of the world."

So we light this candle to remember and remind ourselves that the Light of the World, and the love, healing and welcome offered are with us here in this time

Call to Worship: *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ communion for January 16, 2022 (Second Sunday after Epiphany - C) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

We come in these endless days, Precious God,

people in need of the constancy of your love:

may we drink deeply from your fountain of life;

may we continue to be guided by your Light.

We gather in these weary days, Water-changing God,

people looking for signs of hope and wonder:
**may we drink deeply from your fountain of grace;
may our weariness be wrapped in your Hope.**

We worship in these overwhelming days, Gifting God,
people who try to point others to Jesus:
**may we drink deeply from your fountain of joy;
may our life be strengthened by your Life.**

Hymn: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise VU 101

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus Christ, to you we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in your birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest,
in your Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

- 3 Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

- 4 Grant us grace to see you, Lord,
mirrored in your holy Word;
with your grace our lives endow,
grace to imitate you now,
that we like to you may be
at your great epiphany,
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

Opening Prayer (in unison): *Doris Van Den Eeckhout, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, p.46.*
Used with permission, alt.

**Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth,
help us to notice,
help us to pay attention,
to let our senses experience all you have given.
Help us to stay on your path.
Surround us.
Guide us.
Keep us focused on the true path of righteousness.
May we always show praise and grace
in our words, in our actions.
Keep us in your blessed arms full of love. Amen.**

Ministry of Music: "Rain Down" by Jaime Cortez, *played by Suzanne Flewelling*

Call to Reconciliation *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 16, 2022 (Second Sunday after Epiphany – C). Used with permission.*

Ignorance is no excuse,
we know how our lives do not reflect
God's grace,
God's hope,
God's justice.
But God will not give up on us,
but is waiting to forgive us and call us as God's children.
Please join me as we pray, saying,

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 16, 2022 (Second Sunday after Epiphany – C). Used with permission, alt.*

**Delight of the Ages, we cannot remain silent,
but must speak of the ways we misuse your gifts.
In our desire to have more and more,
we cause more damage to your good creation.
In our obsession with ourselves,
we have desolated the lives of those around us.
When we hoard what you have given us,
we cannot be a blessing to other people.**

**Forgive us, Restless God, so we might be restored to life.
May your steadfast love save and strengthen us
to share our gifts with others,
even as you have shared the Gift of Jesus Christ, our risen and rising Saviour. Amen.**
(Silence is kept)

Words of Assurance *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy with Communion for January 13, 2019 (Baptism of the Lord - C). Used with permission, alt.*

God delights in you.

So much, that God will not rest until you are at peace.

God will not remain silent, but will call you by name: 'My Delight.'

**God's steadfast love extends to the heavens,
and reaches down to touch our hearts.**

Thanks be to God who forgives and saves us! Amen.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 *(NRSV)*

Different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom,
and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,
to another faith by the same Spirit,
to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
to another the working of miracles,
to another prophecy,
to another the discernment of spirits,
to another various kinds of tongues,
to another the interpretation of tongues.
All these are activated by one and the same Spirit,
who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

"...In the Midst"

Gifts

There are so many gifts in our congregation:

- people who offer their gifts of music and singing
- people who offer their gifts of understanding technology and machinery—from the sound and projection in worship, social media posts, to the operation and maintenance of the boiler
- people who offer their creativity
 - by decorating of the sanctuary
 - by baking and cooking for fundraisers and funerals
 - by putting together and offering children's and youth programming
 - by using photography and printing, colouring and crafting to make cards
- people who offer their wisdom and knowledge of history
- people who offer their time to get mail, paint, shovel snow, put down sand & salt, put together gift bags
- people who can organize a campaign, a committee, a cantata
- people who offer their gifts of presence and conversation to those in need
- people who offer their vision to see where we might go
- people who offer their gift of discernment and the need for social justice

- people who offer their gift of hospitality and welcome
- people who offer their gift of generosity
- people who understand governance and share that gift to keep us moving forward

People have all these gifts, and we can well imagine that they use their gifts for their own needs and benefit. But in the context of this congregation, those gifts are offered for the benefit of others—for those who are members of this congregation, and especially those beyond. This whole ministry called Melville United Church is only possible because people share the gifts they have been given, just as Paul calls us to do.

When you consider the gifts you and others share, may you know that the Spirit animates each one and calls us to use them to bring about God's kin-dom.

May we find God in the midst of all our days.

Hymn: In Christ There Is No East and West VU 606

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Scripture: John 2:1-11 (NRSV)

The wedding in Cana

The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'

And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?

My hour has not yet come.'

His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification,
each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.'

And they filled them up to the brim.

He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.'

So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,

and did not know where it came from

(though the servants who had drawn the water knew),

the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

'Everyone serves the good wine first,

and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.

But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory;

and his disciples believed in him.

May God bless to our understanding these readings from scripture. Amen.

Reflection: The Gift of Wine



Turning water into wine—it has become one of the more common stories of the bible. Jesus attends a wedding where it happens that his mother is attending as well. One of those nightmares of hosts occurs and suddenly there is no wine left. And what happens? At his mother's urging, Jesus reluctantly, or so it seems, fixes things, by turning water into gallons of very good wine. And so we nod along.

But wait a minute...there are a few things we might wonder about. In John's recounting of Jesus' life and ministry, this is the first action of Jesus' ministry, after he has been baptized. Is this really indicative of what Jesus is about? Turning water into wine? Making the groom's family relieved that they narrowly avoided perhaps the social faux pas of the season? Making enough wine that everyone could get more than just happy and loosened up, but downright drunk? What exactly does this say about his ministry?

So let's back up and consider the scene some more. Mary has been invited to a wedding in Cana, a town about 15 kilometers from Nazareth west of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus and his friends, his disciples, have also been invited to the wedding. Unlike most of our weddings, where we think of two individuals getting married, in Jesus' time and location, a wedding was much more—the union of two whole families.

...

What's your currency? What is the thing that motivates you to act? In our house, the answer is easy for the six teens/young adults: the internet. If some action is asked for that isn't taking place, the simplest way to break the impasse is to state that the internet will be turned off until said action is taken. People grumble and complain, but the task gets done, usually quite quickly.

So what was the currency in the near east in the time of Jesus? The answer is also fairly easy: honour and shame. Society was built around the idea of honour lifting and shame, and your reputation was dependent on it. If you were honoured, you had it made; if you were shamed, your social position fell, and depending upon the extent of the shame, may have fallen beyond repair.

A wedding was an occasion when much honour, or, much shame, was on the line. It wasn't just a gathering of two people and their friends, it was a pact between two households, two extended families. All the community or communities would be watching, well, most would actually be present. The shame that would ensue if anyone found out that the groom and his family had run out of wine, would be immense.

Mary is well-acquainted with this reality. She knows first-hand about honour and shame. So when she learns of the impending disaster, she finds her son, Jesus, and says to him, "they're just about out of wine, and the party is far from over." Jesus is not interested. "What has this got to do with you or me? It's not my time. Don't push me." Perhaps because she knows the ramifications of shame, Mary isn't settling for "it's nothing to do with us" and tells the servants to do whatever Jesus directs. I can almost hear the whispered, perhaps hissed, discussion between Jesus and Mary. "What are you doing? I told you to leave it alone! I'm not ready yet." "But you are! No time like the present to get on with your destiny." "Mother! Stop **nagging**." "I'm **not** nagging, I'm just telling it like it is."



And so Jesus, with a heavy sigh, turns to the servants and tells them to fill the stone jars, used to hold water for purification rights, with water. Now water, in this time, might be appropriate for washing oneself, but it was not safe to drink. Then he tells them to fill a pitcher with what he has just directed them to put in the jars—water—and take it so the master of the banquet. The servants might be wondering what Jesus is doing, taking water to the host. He, of course, discovers it is wine, and very fine wine at that.

So Jesus has made wine. But not just some wine. He has made 120 to 180 gallons of wine. That's at least 726 bottles of wine. That's at least 3,890 5oz. glasses of wine! Now it's hard to say how many people are at the wedding feast, or how much longer it's likely to go on, but even if there were 500 guests, at a minimum, that's over 7 more glasses of wine each!



So it's none of their business? At Mary's urging, Jesus has made it his business, and not just offered

a bit of a stop-gap, but has provided much fine wine, and perhaps more importantly, taken the bride-groom from a risk of deep shame, to the heights of honour with his gift.

And John, the gospel writer, has some interesting information for us. This is not just a one-off. This is the first sign Jesus gave, he tells us. This is the first glimpse of his glory, and indicates to us the kind of Saviour he will be. He will **get involved** in the plights of people in the very midst of their lives. He will provide for them, fine provision, and in abundance, even extravagance. And this is not just a person acting on their own, this is Jesus, God's son, God's revelation, showing them and us the kin-dom of God. It is a kin-dom of love and understanding, a kin-dom of deep, deep caring and generous and profound grace.

This sign happens at a significant moment in these families' lives. This is a wedding, a coming together across generations, a new beginning, a promise for the future, a time for hope. Jesus' action says that he recognizes and respects this beginning, and wants to see it off on the right foot.

In God's kin-dom there is nothing too small, nothing too large, nothing too heinous, nothing too mild, for God to engage with us. If it is important to us, it is important to God. There is no price to be paid. There is no standing to meet. All we have to have is need. In this case the need was not even expressed by those for whom it was most significant.

And need is something we all have in abundance, if we honestly examine our lives. Not the need for more wine necessarily, but the need for less shame, the need for more honour, the need for meaning and purpose, the need for love, the need for true life.

And we too can do our part for others. We can set about understanding people in the situation in which they find themselves and empathizing with the ways in which they experience need. We can be Mary, once a need is identified, persisting in getting the need addressed. Whether that is advocating on their behalf, persistently asking; or bringing honour to others; or providing generously in their times of need. Out of the gifts God has given us, we have means available to do our part—not more than our part, but our part.

Jesus' action shows us that God is ready and willing to restore us all to new life—for now, for always.

For in life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us, we are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Prayer *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012.*

Holy God,
through signs of grace you reveal your glory to all the world.
Open our eyes to the hidden and surprising wonders you perform,
that we may believe with our minds
and trust in our hearts
that you alone are Lord of all creation.
Though Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share
find a response that is worthy of you,
most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.
David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

For in life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us, we are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Hymn: My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV 138

My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones
if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My souls long to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones
if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

Joys and Concerns

Preparation for Prayer

Let us practice the art of Praying with our Eyes Wide Open, that in seeing the world and those within it we are called to tend we may be *opening the eyes of our hearts to all in need around us* (Lamont Koerner '81 MDiv God Pause for Thursday, September 16, 2021 from Luther Seminary):

Prayers of the People *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 41, p. 80. Copyright 2021, alt.*

God of blessing,
the trees are bare,
winter holds us close to hearth and home,
the lights of Christmas
are long packed away.
We look for signs of life,
waiting for the white of snowdrop,
marking the gentle lengthening of days,
wondering when the warmth of sun
will warm our bones.

Yet...
even in the seeming barrenness of winter,
in your word—
in story shared—
we find hope:
the promise of abundance
like buds greening on trees.
You teach us
in the ebb and flow of seasons,
that your life,
that your love,
flows in and through us
like fine wine
lifting our spirits,
and it is enough,
more than enough.

We pray for all who struggle
in the dark days of winter—
who find it difficult to lift their heads,
who find it hard to see joy within and without.
So we bring before you all who live
with illness of mind and spirit;
all who feel alone, alienated, ashamed;
all who see only darkness,
whose glass feels empty.
Pour in the light of your hope this day...

We pray for all
who hunger and thirst
for justice, for peace, for a fair go—
who find it difficult to be seen and heard,
who find it hard to fight when society is hugely unequal.
So we bring before you all who live
with social stigma and systemic bullying;
all who experience the effects of poverty,
all who have no place to call their own,
whose lives make 'useful' scapegoats.
Pour in the light of your hope this day...

We pray for all
who long for life in all its fullness
in the midst of illness or grief or jobs that grind them down—
who find it difficult to put one foot in front of the other
who find it hard to keep on going.
So we bring before you all who live
with feelings of anxiety or futility;
all who wish they were well;
all who wish that the well of sadness were gone,
whose season for celebration is overdue.
Pour in the light of your hope this day...

We pray for those we love,
those we know,
those often in our hearts and on our minds,
and we offer to you our own needs...

Silence

Pour in the light of your hope this day...

God of blessing,
the trees are bare,
the darkness lingers,
but you, O God,
promise abundance:
may we drink from your cup of blessing this day
and find, in you, our hope.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Minute for Mission:



Theological Education Provides a Roadmap to Vitality

Vancouver School of Theology just celebrated its 50th anniversary. The school, which receives support through Mission & Service, has thrived for over half a century thanks to your generosity.

“We are committed to serve and support the church,” says VST’s President and Vice-Chancellor Richard Topping. To that end, the school has big plans for the coming year: to expand facilities in order to create more teaching space for its growing student body, to begin new partnerships, and to invest in helping congregations flourish.

“Many congregations struggle with issues of viability: for example, managing and maintaining buildings, paying for staff, and other related expenses. Through our **Congregational Vitality through Community Engagement** project, we want to help communities of faith re-focus on core principles of church health and begin to explore new ways of becoming a thriving church,” says Topping.

Right now, through the Congregational Vitality Initiative, VST is working hard to identify the challenges that congregations are facing and help them see what the future might look like. As the research unfolds, VST will gather the best resources and practices that lead to congregational vitality and make them available to the whole church. With proven resources in hand, congregations will be equipped to become more healthy and vital. For communities of faith that are struggling or need extra support, the school plans to offer hands-on support.

“Your gifts are crucial to the work of our school. It is a source of encouragement to our work during these days when the whole of our operations is online because of COVID-19 restrictions. Through the hard work and dedication of a staff, faculty, and student body, who not only work hard but also care deeply, we have been able to continue keep our calling: to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders for the church and the world in the 21st century,” says Topping.

Thank you for your gifts through Mission & Service. By supporting theological education, you ensure not only that the church has strong leaders but also equip them and the whole of the church with a roadmap to vitality, too. Thank you.

Offering Invitation *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1.** Copyright 2012.*

God is a generous giver of gifts
that flow like a river from the fountain of life.
Bring offerings and tributes with thanks and praise;
for the gifts we give are the gifts of God.

Offering

If you would like to do your part by making a monetary donation to Melville United Church, there are several ways to do that.

1. By leaving your offering envelope on the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Cheque (post-dated cheques are welcome): made payable to Melville United Church-which can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 41, Fergus ON N1M 2W7 or put in the mail slot beside the parking lot door.
3. Donate online through the Canada Helps web-site
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/melville-united-church>
4. Call or email Lynda, to arrange Pre-Authorized Remittance payments (PAR).
5. E-transfer directly from your bank. E-mail to secretary@melvilleunited.com

Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute so much to make Melville the caring community of faith that it is. May you be blessed.

Offering Prayer *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, **Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 16, 2022 (Second Sunday after Epiphany – C).** Used with permission.*

Sometimes, we believe the gifts we offer do not matter.
But when they are combined with all the other gifts –
of healing, of hope, of compassion, of your heart –
they can become rivers of grace and justice
flowing through the lives of everyone around us.
We offer our gifts to you in this hope, as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: You Shall Go Out with Joy VU 884

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands
(clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

Commissioning *Reverend Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: Liturgy w/ Communion for January 16, 2022 (Second Sunday after Epiphany – C). Used with permission.*

God sends us out to the lonely, the forsaken,
all those forgotten in these weary times.

**We will go to gather them up into the heart of love,
to welcome them as our siblings.**

Jesus calls us to throw a party for those
who are hungry for hope, who thirst for justice.

**We will go to break bread with those who sit at empty tables,
who long to taste the sweet bouquet of grace.**

The Spirit sends us forth,
transformed from the foolish to the faithful.

**We will go to those who walk in the muck of life,
who yearn for new days, of joy and wonder.**

Change the Light/Blessings

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.
I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

Change Light

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.
Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

Blessing *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1. Copyright 2012.*

May the Spirit's love,
flowing like water across the face of the earth,
fill you with every gift for the good of the world.
And the blessing of God,
Eternal Source, Fountain of Life, and Giver of Gifts,
be with you always. **Amen.**

Ps. 36:8–9; 1 Cor. 12:1–12

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Enlivening God,
each morning I am awakened by your goodness
nudging the earth to life.
I am filled with wonder.
Your steadfast love extends to the sky,
your constancy reaches to the clouds.
How precious is your steadfast love!
It shines like the dawn,
and dews the desolation of my soul.
Manifest in me the gifts of your Spirit
that I may rejoice in you
as I delight in serving your world this day. Amen.

Isa. 62:1, 4–5; Ps. 36:5, 7

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As evening falls and darkness shutters the day,
do not forsake us, O God.

Isa. 62:3–4; Ps. 36:5, 7, 10

Crown the sky with jewels of light
that your salvation may burnish the heavens
and illumine the earth,
and all find refuge in the shadow of your wings. Amen.