



February 12, 2023

Melville United Church

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Melville United Church
February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Prelude *played by Eko Gemah*

“Leño verde”

“Taquirari de despedida”

Welcome

I greet you in the name of who calls us to follow, Jesus the Christ

We gather in community today – February 12, 2023 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. We encourage people to come out to worship in the sanctuary. There is ample room to socially distance, and you are welcome to wear masks or not as is comfortable for you.

For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

We gather in this season of Epiphany, the season of light, when Jesus shows us the ways he is manifest, demonstrably present with, for and among us.

Announcements

- **UCW Meat Pies** are available for purchase after the service from Marg Frayne. Only \$4.50 each, cash or cheques made payable to Melville United Church UCW.
- **“MID-DAY MUSIC AT MELVILLE” presented and performed by pianist BRAD HALLS**
“Mid-Day Music at Melville” returns on Wednesday, February 15 from 12 noon to about 1:00 p.m. at Melville United Church in Fergus, when pianist Brad Halls will present songs written by composer Hoagy Carmichael and composer/lyricist Frank Loesser. The two collaborated on enduring standards such as *“Two Sleepy People”* and *“Heart and Soul”* and individually created classic songs such as *“Georgia on My Mind”*, *“The Nearness of You”*, *“I’ve Never Been in Love Before”* and so many more. There is absolutely no admission fee, but a voluntary contribution to Melville to keep the heat and lights on and the piano tuned is always welcome.
- Come one, Come all!! For a **Lasagne luncheon on Sunday February 19th following the service, hosted by Suzanne Flewelling and the UCW.** Lunch will be held in the Chapel and Parlour. Please join us for fun and fellowship!!
- **Let's celebrate our Melville UC Family along with Hope Springs UC on Family Day Weekend!**
SUNDAY, Feb. 19 in the afternoon, come join us inside or outside!
 - Inside at Hope Springs UC ([75 Geddes St, Elora](#)):
Board Games and Snacks for all ages (0 - 100!)
 - Outside at the hill by the Wellington County Museum (Aboyne Library):
Tobogganing for all ages (weather permitting)
Hot chocolate and snacks after at Hope Springs UC
(children and youth need to be accompanied by an adult)

- **Week of Guided Prayer and Spiritual Exploration – February 26 to March 4, 2023** – Creating Space for Sacred Times and Places – Presented by the Guelph Ecumenical Guild of Ignatian Spiritual Direction

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 <https://guidedprayer.webs.com/>. Register by February 20, 2023

- On Monday, February 6, a series of **powerful earthquakes struck southern Türkiye (Turkey) near the border with Syria**. The quakes caused extensive damage and loss of lives. At time of writing, the death toll has surpassed 20,000 people, and thousands more are missing. The winter weather makes the situation even more dire for people who are without shelter, warm clothes, blankets, water, and food. Some of the people affected by the earthquake were already displaced by conflict. Today, people need emergency shelter, blankets, mattresses, clean water, food, and hygiene items. We join Mission & Service partners the Middle East Council of Churches, ACT Alliance, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Humanitarian Coalition to show tangible support for the people of Türkiye and Syria. You can be a part of these efforts by donating now at <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/earthquake-turkiye>. Thank you for your generosity.
- As more and more people find their dollar shrinking, and having to decide between rent and three meals a day, the demand for food bank assistance rises. We ask you to prayerfully consider if you are able to **support the Food Bank**, either with a donation of food, or financially. Food bank use is up 35% over the last three years. The food bank has also calculated that a basket of food and goods that cost \$39.85 in 2021 now costs \$50.83, a 27.55% increase in one year. The Food Bank is asking for your financial support at this challenging time.

Most needed items (as of February 7th):

Pasta Sauce	Mac & Cheese Side Dishes	Chunky Soup (Habitant)
Small Canned Soup	Pasta Side Dishes	Canned Vegetables
Cold Cereal	Peanut Butter Juice	Jam
		Canned Salmon

Well-stocked with:

Pasta	Spaghetti	Tomato Soup	Canned Chickpeas and Lentils
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- **Save your Used Stamps from Incoming Mail:** Cut off your used stamps, leaving a 1/2" border around them and give them to Marlene Tosh or put them in the Stamp Box on the shelf in the Cloak Room, where the Lift is on the main floor of the church. Marlene tidies them up and takes them to the Bible Society, to buy bibles. You can do this year-round!
- **Gifts with Vision: A Giving Catalogue from The United Church of Canada**
 - Give meaningful gifts that make a difference with [Gifts with Vision \(opens in a new tab\)](#)! Each year's gift catalogue gives a glimpse of the breadth of our Mission & Service ministries and programs.
 - *Gifts with Vision* has gift ideas to suit every interest, budget, and person. It's a great way to celebrate special occasions and honour loved ones!
 - The gift catalogue is updated online regularly, and is fully refreshed every fall. It is also distributed in print with *Broadview* magazine, and mailed to each pastoral charge.
 - **To order gifts, be inspired, or learn more, visit [GiftsWithVision.ca \(opens in a new tab\)](#) today!**

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

Land Acknowledgement *Peter Chynoweth, **Gathering: Pentecost 1 2022**, p.33. Used with permission.*

We acknowledge that this land on which we gather for worship is the traditional land of the people of the Petun,
Haudenosaunee,
Anishinabewaki,
Mississaugas of the Credit,
Odawa and
Mississauga nations.

We acknowledge that we live on this land as people who have agreed to share the care and use of this land as a result of treaties—the Simcoe Patent-Treaty 4, 1793 and the Haldimand Treaty, 1784—that outline the rights and responsibilities associated with our place in this land. May we be people who remember this with thanksgiving and respect.

Lighting the Christ Candle/Call to Worship/Opening Prayer: *Gord Dunbar, **Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023**, p.42. Used with permission.*

(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)

The candle is lit.

It seems ironic that this tiny flickering flame of the Christ candle is hard to notice in the light of day,
the radiated heat unfelt across the room or the digital divide,
the subtle aroma of the burning candle impossible to smell more than a short distance away or through our screens.

**Yet we gather around this light nevertheless,
perceiving Christ's living presence all around us,
feeling the expansive warmth of Christ's welcome in worship,
inhaling the heady perfume of love alive.**

Come, then, to be embraced by the rainbow spectrum of God's promise,
to be enfolded in the unconditional embrace of Christ's companionship,
to be empowered by the Spirit's passion for right relation.

We come in answer to God's call, joyful to serve and to witness.

In answer to that divine call, let us join our hearts with God's heart in prayer:

In this morning light, O God,

wrap us with the inspiration of night's vision.

Within the restrictions we each may deal with, O Christ,

free us to reach out to one another as companions along the Way.

When we feel beaten down and discouraged, O Spirit,

open us to your whispers of possibility empowered by faith. Amen.

Hymn: A Light Is Gleaming **VU82 OneLicense #A-740237**

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.

Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.

- 2 When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:

'God's light will ever stay.'
A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.

- 3 And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be a sign:
A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.

Call to Reconciliation *Sharon Winegarden, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022-2023, p.48. Used with permission.*

Often, we find ourselves wishing we had responded to a need or a plea for help.
Sometimes we wish we hadn't thought the thoughts or shared the words we did,
words and thoughts that have hurt others.
We know we aren't perfect, but sometimes we wish we were better people.
Today, by God's grace, we can make a change. Let us pray.

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation (in unison) *Sharon Winegarden, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022-2023, p.48. Used with permission.*

**Loving and Forgiving God, we are humbled before you.
You have created us in your image,
and yet we constantly fail to live up to that image.
You have shown us, again and again,
your love for humanity and for us as individuals,
and yet we continue to make mistakes,
fail to carry out your vision for us,
and use our fear of failure
to convince ourselves that we can't be the best we can be.
Forgive us and forgive our transgressions.
Create in us a renewed intention to be better people. Amen.**

Words of Assurance *Sharon Winegarden, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022-2023, p.48, alt. Used with permission.*

God hears our prayers and understands our failings.
The God of love and compassion works within us
to create anew, again and again.
Let us go forth in that renewal,
vowing to be the best we can be as forgiven people.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Ministry:

Have you learned in school about pronouns? Like, "I" for me by myself, and "we" for all of us

together and “you” for the person you’re talking to. But what about when you’re talking to a whole group of people, what is the pronoun for that? “YOU.” Just the same word, but now it means something different, it means all of you. In some places they have created a way to get that idea across—it is “y’all”. Or as some people say it “all y’all.”

In the Bible story today, Jesus says you are the light of the world, but not “you” rather “all y’all.” So it’s not just that one person is the light of the world, but all the ones Jesus is talking to.

Since we’re talking about light, I wanted to try and experiment. Let’s put this colander in front of the light and see what happens. It makes a pattern, and so many spots of light! All those spots of light are like us. Each one of us is a light, and just like these spots, our light comes from one source. For the light that’s my phone/candle, and for us it’s Jesus. We call it the Light of Christ and it is what gives us light.

We may be tempted, at times, to think that we are little lights all alone. But because our light all comes from the same source, Jesus, we can know that we have each other sharing the light, and we are never alone.

Prayer/Blessing

Hymn: Jesus Bids Us Shine VU585

- 1 Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world is darkness, so let us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 2 Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 3 Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
many kinds of darkness in the world are found:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

Prayer of Illumination *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word**[®]
Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1. Copyright 2013, alt..*

Loving God, open our understanding by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that as the Word is shared
we may receive holy wisdom
to understand the gifts you have bestowed on us.
In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture: Psalm 112:1-9, (10) (VU834) (NRSV)

Delight in God’s commandments

Blessings of the Righteous

Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures for ever.
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered for ever.
They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures for ever;
their horn is exalted in honour.

Ministry of Music *played by Eko Gemah*

Anthem I – “Alturas” *Chilean folk fusion (Horacio Salinas)*

“Tevito (Charagua)” *Chilean signature piece (Victor Jara)*

Anthem II – “La partida” *Chilean traditional folk (Victor Jara)*

“Ramis” *Bolivian taquirari rhythm (Gilberto Rojas)*

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

You are salt; you are light

“You are the salt of the earth.
But what if salt were to lose its flavour?
How could you restore it?
It would be fit for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world.
You don’t build a city on a hill, then try to hide it do you?
You don’t light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you?
No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house.
In the same way, your light must shine before others
so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven.

“Don’t think I’ve come to abolish the Law and the Prophets.
I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them.
The truth is, until heaven and earth pass away,
not the smallest letter of the Law, not even the smallest part of a letter,
will be done away with until it is all fulfilled.
That’s why whoever breaks the least significant of these commands
and teaches other to do the same
will be called the least in the kin-dom of heaven.
Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands
will be call great in the kin-dom of heaven.
“I tell you, unless your sense of justice
surpasses that of the religious scholars and the Pharisees,

you will not enter the kin-dom of heaven.

Prayer Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1*. Copyright 2013.

Holy God,

you gave the law to show your people the way of righteousness.

Help us receive your commandments as grace

and live as your beloved, obedient children

that your goodness may shine through us,

to the glory of your name;

through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **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.

Reflection: The Light of the World

The sun peeks over the horizon in the cold dawn hour. First just a slit of light, and then more until half of that brilliant ball is blazing. It lights up the sky and the clouds crowding in close. The sun inches up and the clouds turn a deep pink, beautiful, but short-lived, for now the sun has progressed higher, and soon disappears behind those crowded ranks of clouds.

There have been so many days like that in the last two months: there might be a bit of sun at dawn, but it is soon swallowed up by the waiting clouds. Many days the sun doesn't even get a chance at that much of an appearance; it's just constant clouds. And then before we know it, the day is coming to an end, and deep gloom takes over in late afternoon. Night descends with astonishing speed.

I don't know if this is the cloudiest winter, but it must surely rank up there. I can't think that many people enjoy it, except maybe for the people who sell Seasonal Affective Disorder therapy lights. I have one that gets set up pretty much anywhere I am sitting, so I get the feel of some bright light.

There are various reasons that the season of Epiphany comes along when it does, not just in the Christian year, but in the calendar year as well. We need the comfort and solace of the light that marks Epiphany during these dull and gloomy days.

And maybe it is not just the gloomy days that spark a need in you for light. Maybe it is your own challenges with health—mental, physical or spiritual. Maybe it is struggle within your family or loved ones: difficulties with school or work. Maybe it is in the state of a relationship with a friend. There are many ways that the clouds and dullness can surround us.

And so our gospel reading for this Sunday: you are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world. Jesus is speaking to the disciples in this part of the Sermon on the Mount, telling them they are these things, and as the crowds gather round the disciples, that *they* are salt and light, and by extension, as we draw close through this reading, that *we* are salt and light too.

Now this could be a welcome thing, to be salt and light, but it would be easy to hear Jesus statement as a command: *be* salt and light, or you *have to be* salt and light, or worse *you'd better be* salt and light. Theologian David Lose says, though, that Jesus' statement is not a command, but

rather a promise. It is a statement about the very being of those to whom he is speaking: you *are* salt and light, at your very core, that's how you've been made, it is your *identity*. You have within you the gift of salt and light. And that light shines out.

So where does that light shine out?

Can you think of places where you have seen the light recently?

...

It shines out in family members that come together from considerable distances to be with a loved one in their illness or end of life. It glows in people who stand up for the needs and rights of a particular group of people in the community. It burns steadily in those like the Burnaby Urban Search and Rescue Team that reached out to the Turkish consulate in Vancouver and has made its way to Turkey to help rescue people trapped beneath the rubble of the devastating earthquake on Monday. It glows in the many people who continue to search through the rubble and pull out unlikely survivors in the midst of the ruin of so much of eastern Turkey.

Like I shared with the kids during Children's Ministry, the light Jesus speaks of is not a solitary flame, a single point of light. He is describing "you," "all y'all" as being light. No one person is the light, no one person must be the light for all, each one of those gathered, each one of us is light, and not just any light, but the light of the world, the light that comes from the one source, Christ and through Christ, God.

This name, this description, is a blessing from God. We can be light, and by our shining, be hope, inspiration, comfort, strength, solace, love to those who struggle in the shadows, who can't for the moment see their own light burning, who need our presence and our light to shine for and with them.

At times we may not be able to see or sense our light, but it is there. It is God shining through us and giving us the gift of illumination for all time. We are not *required* to share it with anyone, but we are *encouraged*, in gratitude for the gift, to not put a bushel or our fear, or our tiredness or our despondency over the light to shroud it. We are encouraged by Jesus to let it shine, and as we shine our light on others, and their light shines back, we are given the gift of that light, seeing our light reflected in others.

And at the heart of it all is Christ's light, that light of strength and power, that source of light of hope and love that shines brightly and steadily, coming along side our light to give us the inspiration to hold out our light in solidarity, comfort, companionship and love. We receive that power, we are that power, to bring light to the troubled shadows of a world in need.

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

Hymn: I Am the Light of the World VU87

OneLicense #A-740237

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

1 When the song of the angels is stilled,

when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found
their way home,

the work of Christmas is begun:

'I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!'

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

- 2 To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth
and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above!
'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!'
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

- 3 To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere!
'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!'
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

- 4 To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth!
'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!'
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

Joys and Concerns

- Happy Birthday
 - Les Johnston celebrates 80 years on Tues. Feb. 14th "Happy Valentines Day!"
 - Ron Anticknap celebrates 77 years on Wed. Feb 15th

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 33, p. 106. Copyright 2019, alt.*

God of all,
in a world where many live without food,
let alone the salt to flavour it,
we pray for ways in which hunger becomes
a memory and all have what they need.

In a world where many live in the gloomy places,
fearful of what each day brings,
we pray for ways in which your love
can transform the hearts of your people.

In a world where nature struggles to survive,
lacking the right conditions to thrive,
we pray for ways to be found
to reinvigorate your creation.

In a world where the shadows of mental health,
makes each day a struggle to simply get through,
we pray for light to shine again
in the lives of those who live this gloom.

In a world where the abuse of children,
goes unheeded or unnoticed,
we pray for love to act
and an end to the abusive behaviour.

In a world where people feel excluded,
because of their sexuality or gender identification,
we pray for understanding and acceptance
for all your children.

Mighty God, we know that we can **be** the salt and light
in our world.

Give us the courage to challenge,
the resources to help,
the openness of mind and heart to care,
to make a difference in this world
that your kingdom might come in the here and now.

Tender God, hear our prayer.

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: Your Generosity Accompanies Grandmothers



Credit: World Council of Churches Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy

In the Rift Valley of Kenya, 7 percent of the people who live there are HIV positive—nearly 900,000—and many will not survive. Grandmothers whose children have died of AIDS are often left alone to care for their grandchildren, and to add insult to injury, their church community condemns them, leaving them without support as they raise their grandchildren.

Some pastors in the Rift Valley, as in many other places, believe and teach that faithful Christians cannot contract the disease and that it is a judgment from God—a disease for sexual sinners.

“The pastors had little information about HIV and AIDS; to them, and others in the community, it was a strange disease.... [They believed] HIV was a result of sexual sin and was a judgement from God for the sexually immoral,” writes Esther Mombo of the World Council of Churches.

In partnership with the United Church, Mombo and Pauline Wanjuru of St. Paul’s University in Limuru, Kenya, led a series of workshops in one Rift Valley community that has been hit especially hard by HIV/AIDS. They invited grandmothers and pastors to connect and learn from each other.

One grandmother who attended the workshops was 70 years old. She had lost both her daughter and her son and was left to raise three grandchildren on her own. Instead of stepping up to help, her neighbours refused to visit her because they said her daughter and son had been sexually immoral. Her pastor wouldn’t even attend her children’s funerals because he didn’t want to be seen associating with her family. When she went to church, the pastor preached about the punishment for sexual immorality.

At the workshops, this woman bravely told her story to the pastors who attended. She also shared with them how it felt to be shamed for loving her children and grandchildren. Another grandmother explained that her grandchildren were born with the virus and couldn’t have been involved in any sexual immorality. Yet another spoke of God’s love for everyone. Pastors listened and learned, and ended by making a commitment to extend compassion and offer pastoral care to the grandmothers.

All of us know from our own life experience that when we know better, we do better. Your [Mission & Service](#) gifts gave these grandmothers the opportunity to help their pastors learn to do better by connecting their love for their grandchildren to God’s love for all. Thank you.

Offering Invitation *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1.** Copyright 2013.*

Like a spring whose waters never fail,
God calls us to share what we have received.
Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering Hymn: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU541
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Offering Prayer (in unison) *Gord Dunbar, **Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023**, p.50. Used with permission.*

We offer into your mission, living Christ, these gifts rooted in our loving.

Sometimes we become weary in the giving,
so bless us with your joy.
Sometimes we are challenged by the enormity of the need,
so bless us with your generosity.
Sometimes we wonder if they make a difference,
so bless us with your vision.

In faith, we are inspired by your call,
so bless our gifts as you bless us in our giving in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: Go, Make a Diff'rence MV209 OneLicense #A-740237

Go make a diff'rence.)
We can make a diff'rence.) 2x
Go make a diff'rence in the world.)

We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.)
We can make a diff'rence.) 2x
Go make a diff'rence in the world.)

We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;

we are the voice of peace.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.)
We can make a diff'rence.) 2x
Go make a diff'rence in the world.)

So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.)
We can make a diff'rence.) 2x
Go make a diff'rence in the world.)

Commissioning and Blessing *Bob Root, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.50. Used with permission.*

Jesus said that we should be just like salt and just like light.
So, as we leave this place of worship,
remembering the delight of baptism,
the strength of community,
and the call to live for love,
let us go into the world with a bold, daring, and tender love.
The world is waiting for us.

Change the Light

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 and I invite you to change your light at home
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 *Bob Root, Gathering: Advent/Christmas/Epiphany, 2022-2023, p.50. Used with permission.*

Let us go, assured of our place in the good heart of God.
Let us go, knowing that the blessing of God holds us, strengthens us, and encourages us
in all the places life calls us to be.
Let us go to be salt and light everywhere!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude *played by Eko Gemah*

1. Ojos azules
2. Papel de plata
3. Una paloma sobre una rama
4. Cantando por amor
5. Canción y huayno

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from **Feasting on the Word®**
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God,
open my eyes to see the world through your compassion.
Open my mind to understand the world through your wisdom.
Open my heart to receive the world through your love. Amen.

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Loving God,
if I have lived this day in the knowledge that perishes,
correct my thoughts,
rectify my judgments,
and mend my foolish ways.
Give me the mind of Christ that I may see the world rightly
and discern the blessings you bestow. Amen.