



The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:5

*Seven Words
of
Light*

Service of Light
November 16, 2021
2:45 p.m.

Doylestown Presbyterian Church

Order of Service

We Gather to Worship

*Welcome and Call to Worship

Rev. Ashley Rossi

One: The light shines in the darkness:

All: And the darkness did not overcome it!

One: In the midst of uncertainty and doubt;
when we are feeling unsure and worn out,

All: God is with us still; encouraging us with hope and urging us onward.

One: May this light be our guide, revealing not only to us but to our churches
and our communities, that God's goodness is our sustaining grace.

All: Let us worship God with joyful hearts!

*Opening Prayer

Elder Zandra Maffett

Musical Offering

"Let All Things Now Living"

Jason Moore, Organ

Bill Rote, Clarinet

Invitation to Confession

Elder Chad Pilling

Prayer of Confession

One: God of light, we confess that we live in the darkness of despair;
worried about our lives, concerned for our health, fearful about the future.

**All: The yoke of our burdens lies heavily upon us; the uncertainty of the road
ahead, our fears of one another, our reluctance to share what we have,
our divisions and quarrels.**

One: We long to turn back; we lament the loss of the past.

All: The unknown future is too blurry and our imaginations too dim.

One: Instill in us the courage to be your faithful people, dependent upon
your provision, trusting in your faithfulness.

**All: Shine the light of your love upon us and transform us with that love,
so we may be infused with your graces and emboldened to be your people.**

We offer our special thanks to this afternoon's service participants:

Worship Leaders

(in addition to the reflectors of the Seven Words of Light)

Rev. Ashley Rossi, Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Carmel Presbyterian Church

Elder Zandra Maffett, Valley Forge Presbyterian Church

Elder Chad Pilling, Abington Presbyterian Church

Elder Beth Bauer, First Presbyterian Church in Springfield (Flourtown)

Rev. Dr. John Willingham, Doylestown Presbyterian Church

Rev. Ted Mingle, Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia,
Lower Providence Presbyterian Church

Music Ministry

Jason Moore, Director of Music, Doylestown Presbyterian Church

Bill Rote, Clarinet

Ushers

Members of Doylestown Presbyterian Church

***Hymn 744**

Arise! Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Ted Mingle

***Postlude**

“How Fair and Pleasant Thou Art”

Jason Moore, Organ

Marcel Dupré

**please stand if you wish*

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends in Christ—this saying is true and worthy of our full acceptance: Jesus Christ came into the world not to condemn the world, but in order that the world may be saved through him.

All: We believe this good news! Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has come to make all things new. Through him, we are blessed with mercy and set free to live a new life in him. Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Seven Words of Light from the Old and New Testaments

As each of the seven scripture passages is read, a candle will be lit – reflecting the light of Christ breaking into the world. The wire around each candle represents the bondage of sin and darkness that plagues the world, seeking to compromise the light. May we remember the persistence of this light that refuses to go dim, shining brightly into our troubled world and our troubled lives, illuminating the pathway forward.

Genesis 1:3-5

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 God called Night.
 And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reflection: Rev. Wonjae Choi (Gwynedd Square Presbyterian Church)

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

Reflection: Rev. Todd Stavrakos (Gladwyne Presbyterian Church)

Daniel 12:3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,
and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Reflection: Rev. Carla Jones Brown (Arch Street Presbyterian Church)

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Reflection: Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson (Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill)

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Reflection: Rev. Heidi Hankel (Bethesda Presbyterian Church)

2 Corinthians 4:6

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reflection: Rev. Randy Barge (First Presbyterian Church of Olney)

Revelation 21:22-23

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty
and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Reflection: Rev. Susan Wonderland
(Outgoing Transitional Executive, Synod of the Trinity)

***Affirmation of Faith—John 1:1-5**

Elder Beth Bauer

**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.**

Invitation to Generosity and Gratitude

*The offering collected this afternoon will support our local efforts of disaster relief
in conjunction with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.*

Those choosing to donate online may do so at <https://presbyphl.org/donation-opportunities/>

Musical Offering

"O God Beyond All Praising"

Jason Moore, Organ

Bill Rote, Clarinet

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. John Willingham

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be
done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.**