

Sunday 25 January
Third Sunday after Epiphany

All are welcome

Call to Worship

One: The light shines

All: and we are drawn to it

One: The Spirit moves

All: and we hear the sound of the wind

One: God's love pours out

All: and we trust it leads us into life

Hymn CH4 755

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

In you, Lord God, I put my trust.

In you, Lord God, I put my trust.

In you, Lord God, I put my trust.

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN - This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it
shine,
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it
shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Verse 1

The light that shines is the light of love,
lights the darkness from above.
It shines on me and it shines on you,
shows you what the power of love can do.

Chorus

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Verse 2

I'm gonna shine my light both far and
near,
I'm gonna shine my light both bright
and clear.
Where there's a dark corner in this land
I'm gonna let my little light shine.

Chorus

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it
shine,
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it
shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

ALL AGE TIME

HYMN - GWA 202

God may our church reflect your
grace
God, may our church reflect your
grace
to all who enter here.
May we extend a wide embrace,
a welcome that's sincere.
May our inclusion be as broad
as your compassion's scope.
For we would be your people, God,
a home, a help, a hope!

Here in this space each child is free
to move, explore, and speak.
There's room to question or agree,
to grieve, to laugh, to seek.
That we by grace may share your
love
across each deep divide
with hearts as gentle as a dove,
O Spirit be our guide

Like Christ, with arms outstretched to all,
help us to live each day,
to build a bridge and not a wall
at church, at work, at play.
May justice lead us as we go,
embracing what is right,
reflecting grace, that we may show
your glory burning bright!

Ruth Duck b.1947

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:13-18

For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand –

when I awake, I am still with you.

John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.

He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God.

For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.' Jesus replied, 'Very

truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.' 'How can someone be

born when they are old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely they cannot enter a second time into their

mother's womb to be born!' Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of

God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth

to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." The wind blows

wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.

So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.' 'How can this be?' Nicodemus asked.

'You are Israel's teacher,' said Jesus, 'and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you,

we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept

our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you

believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came

from heaven – the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man

must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.' For God so loved the

world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have

eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world

through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands

condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is

the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their

deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that

their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be

seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Sermon

You are before me,
God, You are behind,
and over me
You have spread out Your hand;
such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too high to grasp,
too great to understand.

Then from Your Spirit
where, God, shall I go,
and from Your presence where, God, shall I
fly?
If I ascend to heaven You are there,
and still are with me, if in hell I lie.

If I should take my flight into the dawn,
if I should dwell
on ocean's farthest shore,
Your mighty hand
will rest upon me still,
and Your right hand
will guard me evermore.

Hymn - CH4 549 How deep the Father's Love for us

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
that he should give his only Son
to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing
loss;
the Father turns his face away,
as wounds which mar the chosen
One
bring many souls to glory.

If I should say, 'Let darkness cover
me,
and I shall hide
within the veil of night',
surely the darkness is not dark to
You,
the night is as the day, the darkness
light.

Search me, O God, search me and
know my heart,
try me, O God, my mind and spirit
try;
keep me from any path that gives
You pain,
and lead me in the everlasting way.
*From Psalm 139 Ian Robertson Pitt-Watson ©The
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Announcements

Offering

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon his shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there,
my pardon he accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life
—I know that 'it is finished'.

I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from all of this?
I cannot give an answer;
but this I know with all my heart,
his wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend

Benediction