

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

In the darkness God will keep me.
He will stay and never sleep.
In the darkness God is brighter.
Though the night is long and deep.

*All this day Your hand has held me.
God of Heaven, by my side.
Thank You, Father, for Your goodness.
You will hold me through the night.*

In the shadows, You are with me.
And You know my ev'ry fear.
In the shadows, none can harm me.
For the mighty King is here.

*All this day Your hand has held me.
God of Heaven, by my side.
Thank You, Father, for Your goodness.
You will hold me through the night.*

So I find my rest in Jesus.
He who came to rescue me.
Jesus saved me from the darkness,
I will rise to life with Him.

*All this day Your hand has
held me.
God of Heaven, by my side.
Thank You, Father, for Your
goodness.
You will hold me through the
night. (repeat)*

Ending

You will hold me through the night.

Announcements

Offering

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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.

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