



Second Sunday After Christmas -  
B  
January 3, 2021



Key Scripture - John 1:5

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

Theme - What *Can* Darkness Overcome?



## Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook 
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook  [Contact Us](#)
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
  - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
  - Our church building is closed but our Congregation is
  - Church business will be conducted remotely
  - Worship will be recorded and posted to FaceBook

## Congregational Notes



**SMITHS FALLS**  
RISE AT THE FALLS  
111

We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and through the kindness of individual benefactors.

Two Guys for Lunch are partners with us.

Brown Bags and Blessings can continue in the New Year through the kindness of our community and individual benefactors. Thank you for your prayers, they have been answered.

### **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

**Introit** 318 "Christ, Be with Me"

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

### **Call to Worship**

Jesus is here -  
to bind up the broken hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
to grant a garland to those who mourn instead of ashes.  
The mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

Arise! Shine! For our light has come.  
We will rejoice and be glad!

## Opening Prayer

God of Majesty and Mystery,  
We come to you this day in wonder.

As the year opens before us,  
We wonder what it holds,  
where you will lead us,  
how you will call us to follow in the days ahead.

Your presence is always with us.  
So we offer you our trust for the days ahead,  
as we seek to follow in the footsteps of Christ,  
our newborn King.

## Hymn "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

## *Refrain -*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

(First king; Melchior)

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

*Refrain -*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

(Second king, Gaspar)

Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Diety nigh,  
Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
Worship him, God most high.

*Refrain -*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

(Third king, Balthazar)

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

**Refrain -**

***O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

Glorious now behold him arise,  
King, and God, and Sacrifice  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Earth to the heavens replies.

**Refrain -**

***O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.***

**Learning with Children**

**Children's Prayer**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of light and life,**

**You have come to us in Jesus to open a path to new life.  
Yet we long for normal, especially this year.**

**Our resolutions often do not last.**

**Old habits draw us back to familiar ways.  
It is so hard to make a new beginning.**

**Renew our determination to love more dearly  
and follow more nearly, day by day.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Paul declared -

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

Everything old has passed away;

See, everything has become new!

So let us regard ourselves from God's point of view.

**Scripture**      **Jeremiah 31: 7–14;**  
                      **Psalm 147: 12–20;**  
                      **John 1: 1–9, 10–18;**

### **Jeremiah 31: 7-14**

For thus says the Lord:

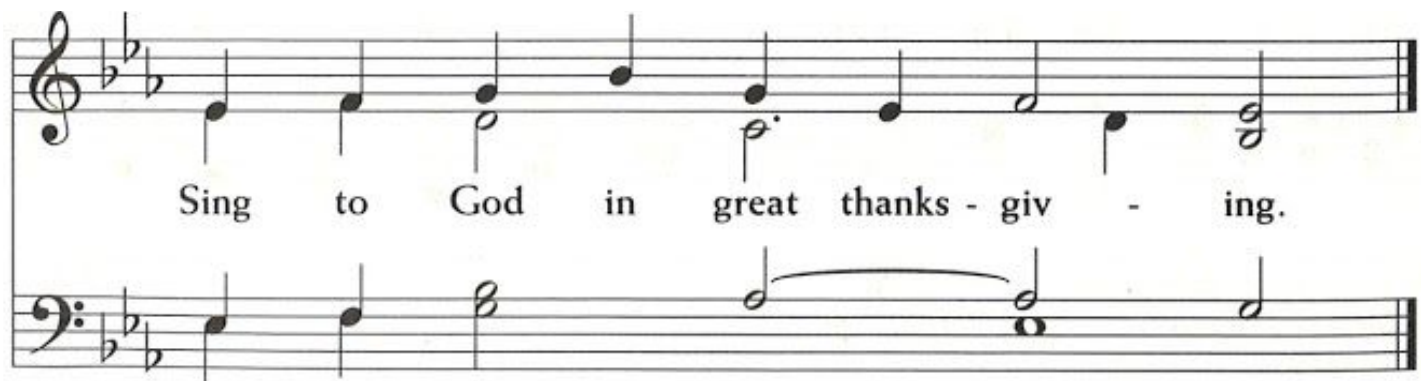
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."  
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.

### Psalm 147: 12-20



Hallelujah, O Jerusalem!

Zion, praise your God.

For God has strengthened the bars of your gates,  
and blessed your children within you.

God has established peace within your borders,  
and filled you with the finest wheat. R

You send your word to the earth, O God;  
your command runs swiftly.

You give snow like wool,  
and sprinkle hoar-frost like ashes.

You scatter hailstones like bread-crumbs;  
you send the cold, and the waters stand frozen.

You utter your word and the ice melts;  
you blow with your wind and the waters flow.

You make known your word to Jacob,  
your statutes and decrees to Israel.

You have not done this for any other nation,  
nor have you taught them your laws. R

## **John 1: 1-18**

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.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe



through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**God bless our understanding of this reading.**

**Meditation** "Whence is that Goodly Fragrance?" (Young)

**Reflection** What *Can* Darkness Overcome?

**Hymn** 676 "God, Make Us Servants of Your Peace"

Lord, make us servants of your peace:

Where there is hate, may we sow love;

Where there is hurt, may we forgive;

Where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
Where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
Where all is night, may we sow light;  
Where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
To be consoled, but to console,  
Nor look to understanding hearts,  
But look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return,  
But seek to love unselfishly,  
For in our giving we receive,  
And in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying, we live, and are reborn  
Through death's dark night to endless day;  
Lord, make us servants of your peace,  
To wake at last in heaven's light.

**We Respond to God's Word  
Offering Ourselves  
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

**Invitation to Offering**

God has sent Light into the world in Christ, and no darkness can overcome it. Let us offer our gifts, trusting they may bring light into the world in Christ's name.

## Offering Prayer

God of purpose and promise, we offer you our gifts this day, trusting that you can use them to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine. Bless them and us, so that in the year ahead, we can shine your light into places of need and on people seeking to find a new purpose, for the sake of Christ who is Light for the World.

### **Hymn** 93 "When Heaven's Bright With Mystery"

When heaven's bright with mystery  
and science searches nature's art,  
When all creation yearns for peace  
and hope sinks deep in human hearts,  
Appear to us, O Holy Light,  
lift from our eyes the shades of night.

When Herod barter's power  
and lives and Rachel's weeping fills the night,  
When suffering's mask marks every face,  
and Love's a refugee in flight,  
Reveal to us your word of grace  
and make us witness to your peace.

When fragile faith, like desert wind,  
blows dry and empty, hope erased,  
When withered grass and fading flower  
proclaim again our day's brief space,  
Breathe on the clay of our despair  
and work a new creation there.

When heaven's bright with mystery  
and stars still lead an unknown way,  
When love still lights a gentle path  
where courts of power can hold no sway,  
There with the Magi, let us kneel,  
our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

## **Prayers of the People**

God of all time and space,  
As we gather in prayer,  
our lives are small details  
in the vast expanse of the universe.  
We thank you for attending to the details of our lives.

We thank you for walking through the year just past with us,  
and for the gifts of encouragement  
and friendship that cheered us.

We give thanks for ministry and mission,  
for generosity offered to those in need,  
and for new possibilities.

As your spirit guides us into the future,  
Our hearts kneel before you;  
Receive our humble prayers.

The year just ending has held sorrows and challenges.  
We remember dear ones who have died  
and pray for those who look ahead in loneliness or  
sadness...

We pray for those who have faced challenges in health,  
in their families or at work...

Support each one who needs you close by.

God of light and love,  
As we face the year ahead,  
we are aware that much around us is still uncertain.  
We seek your strength and guidance  
in each challenge we will face.  
Draw near to each one who must confront illness, loss or  
changing circumstances.

Guide those for whom new opportunities appear and choices  
must be made...

God of community and commitment,  
We pray for wisdom and courage in the year ahead.  
Strengthen us as a congregation to be a committed witness to  
your love.  
Help us reach out to our community in creative ways,  
and make us effective citizens in these challenging times.  
Guide leaders in our nation and in nations around the world  
so that justice and peace may prevail,  
resources to meet health and hunger needs be shared,  
and understanding and respect grow among divided  
peoples.

Receive our humble prayers and encourage us onward  
in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying...

**The Lord's Prayer**

## **We Depart to Serve with Joy**

### **Hymn 79 "Arise, Your Light Is Come"**

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.

### **Benediction**

Scattered from one another,  
we can still offer healing and hope.

Separated from one another,  
we can still listen to the ignored.

Alone, stuck wherever we live,  
we can still hold on to the fallen.

### **Choral Amen**

### **Postlude "The Three Kings" (Young)**