

Visions United Spirit Gathering
Season of Epiphany
Spiritual Affectiveness Disorder
Shine a Light on the 'Blahs'
February 19, 2023
 You Are Not Alone
Kindness & Encouragement

* *Stand as able*

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

Welcome

God's Doors Are Open to All!
Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts
 Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Acknowledgement of Land

One: We remember with gratitude
 that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,
 the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.

**All: May we live with respect on this land,
 and in peace and friendship with its people**

Sharing of WOW Moments

Invitation to Gather in the Light and Prayer

adapted by Shawn Redden

Sources: prayer ©Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio

(Music underscores narration)

Song *(seated)*

Thy Word is a Lamp

Words: Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith. Chuck Bell
 ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Company and Curb Word Music
 CCLI 11077526, CSPL0447859 CCLI Song#14301

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
 and a light unto my path.
 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
 and a light unto my path.
 When I feel afraid,
 think I've lost my way,
 still you're there right beside me.
 And nothing will I fear
 as long as you are near.
 Please be near me to the end.
 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
 and a light unto my path.

[music continues to underscore the prayer]

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prayer (unison)

Gracious God
 We give thanks for everyday encouragement
 and the grace of unexpected kindness
 Give us courage to live boldly
 with such generosity and grace.
 Open us to the light of possibilities,
 even when the day ahead holds difficulties.
 Be with us, near us, beside us.
 Shine among us. Amen.

Sung Response

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
 and a light unto my path.

Promise of Presence & Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

We Listen for Wisdom***Song (stand)**

And When Afraid

Words/Music: Mark Green©1993. Used with permission.

Refrain: And when afraid, I look down deep inside
 And when afraid, I look down deep inside
 And when afraid, I look down deep inside
 And there I find the God who walks with me.

Sometimes the dark scares me (*echo*)
 Sometimes I think I hear things (*echo*)
 But when I pray (*echo*)
 It goes away (*echo*)
 The light comes from inside (*echo*)

Refrain

Sometimes the world's a big place (*echo*)
 Sometimes I think I'm so small (*echo*)
 But as I grow (*echo*)
 It's good to know(*echo*)
 The light grows with me too

Refrain

Sometimes I feel rejected (*echo*)
 Sometimes I fell alone (*echo*)
 But then I find (*echo*)
 A friend who's kind (*echo*)
 Who helps the light shine through (*echo*)

*Refrain***Theme Conversation for All Ages**

(Children's program begins)

Song *(seated)* More Light *(repeat 2x plus tag)*

Words/Music: Christopher Grundy

Recording: *from Christopher Grundy's CD*

"Stepping In," available at www.christophergrundy.com

© 2004 Hand and Soil Music CCLI 11077526, CSPL0447859 CCLI Song # 5845190

More light, more truth
is breaking from Your Word.

More light, more truth,
Holy Spirit, help us hear what needs to be heard.

*Tag: Help us hear what needs to be heard
Help us hear what needs to be heard.*

Wisdom Reading

Special Music Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Words: William Williams. Music: John Hughes

Public Domain

Thy Loving Kindness

Words/Music: Hugh Mitchell ©1956,1962 Singspiration

CCLI 11077526, CSPL0447859 CCLI Song # 11012

Reflection

Video Reflection

Performed by L'Arche Communities https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_pARR9_QDE

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Our Community at Prayer

Sung Response VU#289 It Only Takes a Spark (v 1 & 3)

Words/Music: Kurt Kaiser

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Minute for Mission

Jane Aikman

Invitation to Generosity & Blessing of Our Gifts

Sung Blessing Christ Be Our Light (v5, refrain)

Words/Music: Bernadette Farrell ©1993.

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Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
making your kingdom come

(refrain) Christ be our light
Shine in our hearts
shine through the darkness
Christ be our light
shine in your church gathered today

The Work of the Congregation - Announcements

Spiritual Practice for the Week

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

***Song** (*stand*) MV#209 Go Make a Difference (*refrain, v2, refrain, v3, refrain*)

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Changing of the Light & Blessing

Postlude Music for the Journey