



TRINITY REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Guest Pastor, Reverend Haan Phelps

Dan Molkenthin, Director of Music

Kathy Jones, Lay Reader

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

GREETING

LEADER: This is the Day that the Lord has made.

PEOPLE: **Let us Rejoice and be glad in it.**

GATHERING MUSIC “THIS IS THE DAY” #84 NCH

This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made;
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day
that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is
the day that our God has made.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP– Psalm 100:1-5 (CEB)

One: Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with
celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy!

**People: Know that the LORD is God—he made us; we belong to him. We are
his people, the sheep of his own pasture.**

One: Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him!
Bless his name!

**All: Because the LORD is good, his loyal love lasts forever;
his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.**

*HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

1 NCH

Immortal, invisible, God only wise
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Your life is life-giving to both great and small;
In all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
Then wither and perish but naught dims your powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do:
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

***A LITANY OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT**

One: We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully.

Two: The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected. In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into the light.

ALL: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in the light.

One: It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe—blankets of stars, that the solidarity glowing of distant planets.

Two: It was the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe—blankets of stars, the solitary glowing's of distant planets.

ALL: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in the light.

One: In the darkness of night, desert peoples find relief from the cruel, relentless heat of the sun.

Two: In the blessed desert darkness. Mary and Joseph were able to flee with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt.

ALL: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in the light.

One: In the darkness of sleep, we are soothed and restored.

Two: In the darkness of sleep, dreams rise up. God spoke to Jacob and Joseph through dreams. God is speaking still.

ALL: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in the light.

One: In the solitude of darkness, we sometimes remember those who need God's presence in a special way—the sick, the unemployed, the bereaved, the persecuted, the homeless, those who are demoralized and discouraged, those who fear has turned to cynicism, those whose vulnerability has become bitterness.

Two: Sometime in the darkness, we remember those who are near to our hearts—colleagues, partners, parents, children, neighbors, friends. We thank God for their presence and ask God to bless and protect them in all that they do—at home, at school, as they travel, as they work, as they play.

ALL: You are with us, O God, in darkness and in the light.

One: Sometimes, in the solitude of darkness, our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions rise to the surface. We come face to face with ourselves and with the road that lies ahead of us. And in that same darkness, we find compassion for the journey.

Two: In that same darkness, we sometimes allow ourselves to wonder and worry whether the human race is going to survive.

ALL: We know you are with us, O God, yet we still await your coming. In the darkness that contains both our hopelessness and our expectancy, we watch for a sign of God's hope.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S STILL SPEAKING VOICE

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:1- and John 8:12

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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."

One: God is still speaking

ALL: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE Reverend Haan Phelps

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN** *"Love Divine, All Love Excelling"* **43 NCH**

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown, Jesus, you are
all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart. Visit us with your salvation,
enter every trembling heart;**

**Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms out-stretched above.**

**Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you; Changed from
glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, Crowned as saints,
we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS**

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVE

One: O God, most merciful and gracious,
of whose bounty we have all received,
accept, we pray, this offering of your people.

**ALL: Remember in your love those who have brought it
and those for whom it is given; and so, follow it with your blessing
that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people
and advance the realm of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

***HYMN**

“Be Thou My Vision”

451 NCH

**Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.**

**Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.**

**Riches I need not, nor life’s empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.**

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***COMMISSION**

One: As the first act of creation, God brought forth light.

ALL: The darkness cannot overcome God's beautiful light.

One: In Jesus God's light continues to shine.

ALL: With God's help we will shine God's light in our words and deeds.

One: Soon we will leave this building, but we are always the church, the body of Christ.

ALL: We are the hands and feet of Jesus, carrying God's love and grace to the world.

BENEDICTION

*The grace of God, deeper than our imagination;
the strength of Christ, stronger than our need;
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
richer than our togetherness; guide and sustain us today
and in all our tomorrows. Amen.*

***SUNG BENEDICTION**

Worship resources:

Department of Parish Development and Mission, New Zealand published in the New Century Hymnal