



# First United Methodist Church of Torrance Online Church in Worship

January 5, 2025

## PRELUDE - Hani

Aria "Art Thou With Me" BWV 508

J.S. Bach

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## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

**All: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

Leader: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: "Arise, shine; for your light has come."

**All: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

Leader: The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

**All: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.**

Leader: So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

**All: We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen.**

*(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)*

## OPENING HYMN #64 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* (v. 1, 2)

1. Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning  
our songs shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons,  
blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim  
falling down before thee,  
which wert and art, and  
evermore shalt be.

**Holy Holy Holy (Nicaea)**

John Bacchus Dykes, Reginald Heber  
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**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability, who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod: Whenever we, in our actions or our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety; whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed; whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world.

**All: Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.**

**(Assurance of Pardon)**

Leader: God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

**All: God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it. We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

*(Written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational, Rochester, NH)*

**HOLY COMMUNION***The Great Thanksgiving*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*...The pastor concludes:*

And so,  
with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*...The pastor concludes:*

And so,  
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

*The pastor concludes:*

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**HYMN #64** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* (v. 3, 4)

3. Holy, holy, holy!  
Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinful man  
thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy;  
there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in  
love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name,  
in earth and sky and seas.  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons  
blessed Trinity.

**Holy Holy Holy (Nicaea)**  
John Bacchus Dykes, Reginald Heber  
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**TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH****JOYS AND CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER / 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

For those who are called and able, gifts and tithes can still be made through [online giving](#), by mailing them in, and by dropping them off to the church office through the secure mail slot to the left of the double door entry to the church hallway.

**OFFERTORY MUSIC - Rev. Jacob**

**You Raise Me Up**  
Brendan Graham | Rolf Lovland  
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## DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Old 100th)**  
Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken  
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## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious Lord, whose light guides our steps, we bring these gifts in humble adoration. May they be used to spread your truth and love to all nations. As we journey into this new year, let our hearts remain focused on your presence and our hands open to your service. In the name of Christ, our guiding star, we pray. Amen.**

*(Matthew 2:1-12)*

## SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)

- 1 Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- 2 For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.
- 3 Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- 4 Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- 5 Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- 6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

*Response*

The Word of the Lord:  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem - Chancel Choir****Let There Be Peace On Earth**

Jill Jackson | Sy Miller

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**SERMON - Rev. Jacob Lee***Arise, Shine!***CLOSING HYMN #585 *This Little Light of Mine***

1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3. All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**This Little Light of Mine**

Harry Dixon Loes | William Farley Smith

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**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE - Hani****With Wings Like Eagles**

David Paxton

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