

Luke 1: 78-79

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

O come Desire of nations bind

ALL PEOPLES IN ONE HEART AND MIND

And so it came...it tiptoed its way into my heart, silently, imperceptibly, and I looked at it with wonder. It was a still, small light blue flame.

Irina Tweedie

"Lo I am with you always." You promised that.
And when I realized it was true, my soul flared up.

Rumi

You are driving on a dark highway out in the country. You've not been on the road before. Your headlights are ok-----but the brights REALLY help. You are able to be a bit less anxious, a bit more peaceful on the road until the sun comes up.

This is what Zechariah is feeling as he realizes that very soon, God was going to give humanity a light, his son, who would bring a very helpful light into the world, allowing humanity to more easily find its way, see the way ahead, until the sun came up, until the light of God, the dawn from on high, arrived.

Let's consider today a very simple way into this text as we make our way toward Christmas.

Let's consider how it feels to come out of the darkness into the light.

Anybody ever lose power in a storm at night? The house is pitch black. You grope your way to the junk drawer for a flashlight you hope still works. Click. Whew! Thank goodness for the energizer bunny!

Now you can find the matches, light some candles around the house. What does that feel like? You've gained a level of comfort. Anxiety has lessened. You have your bearings now. Your sense of direction. All shall be well. Maybe not easy.....but all shall be well---that's the feeling of this. You are going to be ok, until the sun comes up.

When the house is pitch black, you are pretty much focused on yourself, you can't think much beyond your own troubling situation. Once you've lit a few candles though, once you can see your way around, a feeling of concern for the neighbors may arise, a feeling of desire to be helpful to them may arise-----and you begin to consider how to be helpful, and that feels really good. There is a feeling of agency that may arise, an empowering feeling of agency that feels freeing. You experience yourself as having the power to push the darkness back for your neighbors----you dash across the street with a few candles and some matches in case they need some, until the sun comes up.

Now the sun comes, the sky begins to glow purple, then dark blue, then orange and so on. Daylight. We can put our candles away. Our flashlights. We felt somewhat comfortable in the night, with our flashlight beams and candles allowing us to see, to find our way in the dark, but with the rising of the sun, the world is flooded with light, the darkness is no more. We don't feel somewhat comfortable now, we feel completely safe.

So-----Why don't we feel completely safe in this world, where Zechariah's prophesy has been fulfilled, a world upon which the dawn from on high, the Christ light, has broken?

With anguish in my being for you and me I can't quite say. You and I have to prayerfully ponder that for ourselves. One thing I CAN say though. That feeling of safety, that conviction of safety, that interior posture of safety will come, and indeed, is coming.

By the tender mercy of our God.

"FOR YOU I WAIT ALL DAY LONG...."

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

December 9, 2018 Second Sunday of Advent

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Saving God, in our secret yearnings, we wait for your coming

COME IN YOUR POWER AND COME IN YOUR WEAKNESS

Lighting of the Candles

"The true light that shines on all people was coming in to the world" John 1: 9

Give us the grace and the impatience

TO WAIT FOR YOUR COMING TO THE BOTTOM OF OUR TOES, TO THE EDGES OF OUR FINGERTIPS

Come in your power, and come in your weakness

AND MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

119 O Come O Come Emmanuel vss 1 and 2

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

132 When God is a Child vss 1 and 2

Sharing Christ's Peace

PataPan STRUM

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence "Your face, my Beloved, do I seek; hide not your face from me" Psalm 27

Children's Circle

All children thru 5th grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own "Worship and Wonder" time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

We stumble in the darkness. Light of the world, illumine us

WE FORGET THAT WE ARE YOUR HOME. SPIRIT OF GOD, DWELL IN US

THE GOSPEL Luke 1: 78-79

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen amen.

The Meditation "By the Tender Mercy" Rev. Rob Carr

Compassionate God who brings us from desolate places and into your presence;

Liberating God who lifts us from despairing places and grants to us release;

Healing God who leads us to sacred places where we can rest in peace;

Accept the gratitude of our hearts; Amen.

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

The Offering

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

134 Emmanuel Emmanuel 2X

Gather us in

**THE DONE AND THE DOUBTING, THE WISHING AND WONDERING, THE PUZZLED AND PONDERING
WHO LONG FOR THE COMPANY FOUND AT YOUR FEAST**

Gather us in

**THE PROUD AND PRETENTIOUS, THE SURE AND SUPERIOR, THE NEVER INFERIOR
WHO LONG FOR THE LEVELLING FOUND AT YOUR FEAST**

Gather us in

**THE BRIGHT AND THE BUSTLING, THE STIRRERS, THE SHAKERS, THE KIND LAUGHTER MAKERS
WHO LONG FOR THE DEEPER JOYS FOUND AT YOUR FEAST**

Welcome to the Table
The Words of Institution

The Communion Prayer

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.**

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation

Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

129 Lift Up Your Heads O Mighty Gates

Deep in our hearts

**THE CREATOR'S GRACE, THE SAVIOR'S LOVE, THE SPIRIT'S POWER
THE THREE IN ONE, DEEP IN OUR HEARTS**

TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!

SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE

WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available before and after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook and these websites

www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

THIS WEEK

Today 5PM Youth arrive for Talent Show Prep
Today 6PM Talent Show---Holiday Refreshments
Monday 6PM Troop 900
Monday 630PM Music Ministry at Nunn House
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 1230PM Women's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900

Wednesday 1PM Vital Conversation
"Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most" by Marcus Borg

Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry
Thursday 11AM Rob Hosts Regional Disciples Clergy Luncheon
Thursday 6PM NOCC Board
Thursday 6PM Girl Scouts
Friday 6PM Kids Movie Night-Parents Night Out
Saturday 9AM Centering Prayer

UPCOMING

Next Sunday December 16 Jubilation Ringers Featured in Worship

Sunday December 23 1015AM
NOCC CHOIR PRESENTS: RHAPSODY IN BLUEGRASS

Christmas Eve
Carols and Communion by Candlelight 7PM and 11PM

Keep these items in mind as you consider the remarkable ministry
of our friends at CHERITH BROOK.
Blankets Blankets Blankets! Tennis Shoes, Cold Meds, Band-aids, Bike Locks,
Gloves, Hats, Chapstick
Cherith Brook Local Honey for Sale! Contact Eric 816-241-8047

SOWING A SEED-GROWING OUR VISION 2016-2018

Our campaign prayer: We want what you want God. Open each heart and mind to Christ, our Light.
Guide us together by your Holy Spirit, to trust in your will, amen.