

Awake My Soul, Mike Moyers



ORDER OF WORSHIP January 7, 2024

Prelude

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Emma Lou Diemer

Greetings

*Call to Worship

David Brodnax Sr.

Like the magi of two thousand years ago, we gather today to praise God,

In this new year, the glory of the Lord rises upon us.

God's truth and love shines upon us like a star in the sky,

Let us use this time together, and all the time that is given to us, to walk towards God.

Let our hearts thrill and rejoice,

Let us all proclaim the praise of the Lord.

*Opening Hymn

There's a Star in the East on Christmas Morn'

p. 3

*Opening Prayer

David Brodnax Sr.

Confession Rev. Henrietta Brown

Merciful God, Light of the world,

we confess that we have not resisted the darkness.

You deliver the poor and the helpless,

but we have ignored their cry.

You take pity on the weak and the destitute,

but our hearts are hard in the face of their need.

You heal the wounded and save the oppressed,

but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war.

Forgive us, we pray.

Awaken in us sincere repentance

that we may shine with the light of your saving grace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved of God,

thrill and rejoice in God's glory.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Response

He Came Down That We May Have Love

p. 4

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH There's a Star in the East Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow 1 There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn. Rise up, shep-herd, and you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low. will lead to the place where the Christ was fol - low. You'll for - get your flocks; you'll for - get your Refrain up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol low, fol low; up, shep-herd, and fol - low. Fol - low the star Beth - le - hem. Rise shep-herd, and fol - low. up,

This African American spiritual, cast in a characteristic call-and-response style, provides a reminder that the good news of the Incarnation should lead Christians not only to awe and adoration but also to living and acting in ways that make God's purposes known to others.

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

FOLLOW Irregular



Additional stanzas:

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

TEXT: Cameroon song
MUSIC: Cameroon melody; transcr. and arr. John L. Bell, 1986
Music Arr. © 1986 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

HE CAME DOWN

LM

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

One: This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. All: Thanks be to God

Sermon A Manifestation of Joy Rev. Colin Knapp

Response O Hail This Brightest Day of Days J.S.Bach

Prayer for the OfferingDavid Brodnax Sr.

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Holy Communion

Rev. Colin Knapp

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 thanks and praise

Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with the angels and with all the company of heaven, who forever proclaim the glory of Your Name:

Holy, Holy, 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.

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, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the manner of their choosing, included below is one version:

Our Father (Mother, Creator), 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Communion Hymn One Bread, One Body (stanzas 1 and 2) p. 7

Announcements

Closing Hymn Arise, Your Light Has Come p. 8

All Congregational Epiphany Light Parade

Pilgrim History

On Dec. 6, 1888, the cornerstone was laid for the new church building (our current chapel). In February 1899, Oak Park Ave Dry Goods, Miss Gill's Millinery and Arnold's Photography Gallery pledged a percentage of their revenues to support a capital campaign for the building.

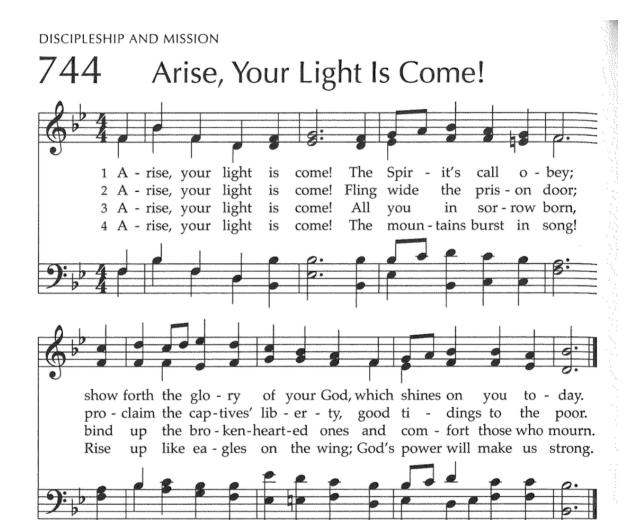
Nursery Care during worship is available for children ages 5 and under. Please see an usher for location. Today's Nursery Attendants are Katherine Obed & Otto Huber.

Today's Liturgist is David Brodnax Sr. Connect Leaders are Cheryl Capps and Karen Lease. Ushers are Lee Capps and Bill Kent. Our Online Worship Coordinators are Delena Wilkerson, Chuck Behensky, and David Taylor-Glass. Our Sextons are Claudia Divis and Leslie Lauderdale. **We give our thanks** for their important contributions to our worship gathering.

A deacon will be available for **healing prayer** every Sunday, after worship, in the front pew.



This Lord's Supper text is based on various Scriptures (1 Corinthians 10:16–17, Galatians 3:28, and 1 Corinthians 12:1–31) as well as imagery from the *Didache*, a significant Christian document from the early 2nd century, about scattered grain united in the eucharistic bread.



Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. FESTAL SONG

SM

(this tune in a lower key, 815)

Announcements

Volunteers Needed!

The Village of Oak Park has asked for volunteers to pick up breakfasts at local restaurants, four days a week only, and deliver them to the YMCA. If you are able to help, please sign up here:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DABA62DA20-47025953-breakfast. Thank you.

Pilgrim Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pilgrim Congregational Church will hold its annual business meeting on January 27 at 9-11 am, by Zoom. The zoom link can be found in the January Tidings and the What's Happening.

You are invited to participate and to guide important Church matters, including the church's 2024 budget, election of officers and Council members and more. We will also hear more about plans to celebrate Pilgrim's 150th anniversary. Council looks forward to seeing you there.

Women's Retreat

Friday, February 2 - Sunday, February 4, 2024

"Be sure to register for this year's retreat. It will take place from February 2 - 4 at the peaceful Pilgrim Park in Princeton, Illinois. We will have plenty of great get to know you fellowship as well as structured devotions, a movie, free time, and a Sunday morning service. Cost is \$183 per person Double (\$198 per person Single, \$173 per person Triple) Includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. Please register at the link found in either the "What's Happening or in the January Tidings". Payment is by check with Women's Retreat in the memo field or by Tithe.ly, dropdown Women's Retreat. Final deadline for registration is January 19. Questions should be addressed to Leslie Sutphen (sutphenl@yahoo.com or 773-251-8996)."

Migrant Assistance

Community of Congregations has established a Migrant Response Portal through which community members can volunteer their time, expertise and donate money and supplies to support our new neighbors.

To volunteer time and talent; or donate, click here:

https://www.communityofcongregations.org/migrant-crisis/

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