

Peace Light Prayer Service 2018

(Prelude: Dona Nobis Pacem – if we have three voices to sing the round)

Opening song: City of God (V 1) #813

Light is carried in (by Scouts) and placed on stand in front of the altar.

Explanation of Peace Light.

Presider: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, your birth in Bethlehem brought the radiance of God's loving face into our world. Help us to always stand in your light and to let your light reflect in our daily lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

Song: Prayer of St Francis #702

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13 – 16

Sharing of peace light:

Presider: This light from Bethlehem has traveled far, reminding us of the light which came to a dark and fearful world when He who is the Light of the World was born. It is our prayer that this light and all those lit from it will be a sign of hope and joy in our land, in cities, towns and villages.

(Light is passed by way of side aisles by school students)

At our Baptism, each one of us was enlightened by Christ. Today we recommit ourselves to the promises we made in Baptism and to letting God's light shine through our lives.

(Sung profession of faith)

Intercessions (sung response – give us your peace)

Lord's Prayer

Blessing & Dismissal

Closing Song: Let There be Peace on Earth #703

Intercessions:

Presider: Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, your birth brought hope to the world. Your death and resurrection bring us the promise of eternal peace in your presence. Help us to always be people of hope and bearers of peace.

Response: Give us your peace (sung?)

We pray for children throughout the world, that they will always know the love of Jesus the son of God. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for peace in families during the Christmas season and throughout the coming year. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for people who will be facing Christmas without the presence of a loved one for the first time this year. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for St Joseph Community, that we will all follow Jesus more closely in the coming year and that we will all carry his light of peace in our lives. We pray to the Lord.

We pray for migrants and refugees, that they will find welcome on their arrival to their new homes. We pray to the Lord.\

We pray for our older brothers and sisters in faith – the Jewish people, that as they celebrate Hanukah, they will remember to always stand in the light of God. We pray to the Lord.

Presider: Now we bring all of our prayers before our Loving God in the words Jesus taught us...

Comments: Our Peace light will be present in the main vestibule of our church during the Advent (and Christmas) Season. Please feel free to light a lantern and bring this light home with you.

Let us pray: Loving God, as we light our Christmas trees, help us to remember that you are the true light of the world. As we open our gifts help us remember that you are the true gift of Christmas. As we gather with family and friends during this holiday season, help us to remember that you are the source of the love we share. And so, help us to live in your peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who ived in a land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing; They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest, as they exult when dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, the rod of their taskmaster, you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for fire.

For a child* is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests.

They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.

His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, Upon David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains By judgment and justice, both now and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The Word of the Lord

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

The Gospel of the Lord