



Worship Service for January 5, 2025

Prelude	Ceteka Perry
Chiming of the Hour	Cii-jayy Jones
Welcome	Pastor Felix Carrión
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix Carrión
Praise & Worship Songs	Congregation

"You Are the Light of My Path"

You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.

You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.

You are a light on my path.

Teach us Your Way, Give us Your Life,
Smile at the praise we bring.

Teach us Your Way, Give us Your Life.

Smile at the praise we bring.

You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.

You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.

You are a light on my path.

Even in fear, we will not stray.

You are our history.

Even in fear, we will not stray.

You are our history.

You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.

You are a light on my path
shining for the world,

showing the way leading on.

You are a light on my path.

I am resolved to follow You.

You are my heart's delight.

I am resolved to follow You.

You are my heart's delight.

You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.

You are a light on my path
shining for the world,
showing the way leading on.

You are a light on my path.

(x2)

Announcements

Cii-jayy Jones

Call to Worship

Cii-jayy Jones

LEADER: Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to
peace and wholeness.

**ALL: Divine Light, fill our lives and this sacred
sanctuary with your liberating truth.**

LEADER: Light of God, illumine the way of wonder and awe.

**ALL: Divine Light, dispel the darkness in our world
and bring us to a new understanding of the
spiritual unity of all people and all creation.**

***Congregational Song**

Congregation

“Your Light Has Come”

Lift your head,

Raise your eyes,

Look around.

Your light has come.

Your light has come.

Light the world,

Heal the earth,

Bear the Christ.

Your light has come.

Your light has come.

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

ALL: O God, we give thanks for the revelations we perceive in the birth and life of Jesus. In Jesus, we behold unfailing faithfulness. This morning we celebrate that the mystery of our life is wrapped in divine love and light. We are in awe when we ponder your mysteries, nature's order and constancy, the earth's beauty and bounty, the light of day and the darkness of night, and the varied gifts of the seasons. We gather in your love to be one spiritual family walking together in faith throughout this New Year.

Amen.

Reception of New Members

Pastor Felix Carrión

Introduction of New Members

Questions for New Members

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Congregation

ALL: O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the Body of Christ. We thank you for the people gathered in this congregation and rejoice that you have increased our community of love and unity. May we live in the Spirit, building one another up in all we do and say.

Amen.

Welcome and Reception

Pastor Felix & Congregation

Invitation to Offering

Cii-jayy Jones

Alzheimer's Association – Houston & Southeast Texas

Offertory Music

Ceteka Perry

***Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace

**Praise God for gifts of joy and love
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us - Emmanuel.
Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

Cii-jayy Jones

**ALL: Holy One, accept and bless our offerings this
day. Grant that we might live generously, as we
serve to be a blessing to our world. May we be
faithful in all things and at all times!
Amen.**

Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

Matthew 2:1-6

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was

frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Contemporary Witness

Cii-jayy Jones

An Instrument of Your Peace:
 A Tribute to the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi
 Poems by Helen Steiner Rice
 "Security and Encouragement"

To know beyond belief that Someone cares

and hears our prayers

provides security for the soul, peace of mind

and joy of heart

that no earthly trials, tribulations, sickness or sorrow can
 penetrate.

For faith makes it wholly possible to quietly endure

the violent world around us, for in God we are secure.

Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

“The Shepherd Is Born”

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

“Seekers of Light”

Hope of the world, Light everlasting, Jesus the brightest and best,

Son of the Dawn, You are our Vision, You are the Heart of our quest.

Drawn by the Flame, led by a star, You are our Lamp in the night.

Eyes full of hope, warmed by a Promise, We are the Seekers of Light.

Joy of the world, Glory of heaven, Beacon of hope burning bright,

Spark of true love, Fire of creation, draw us to live in Your light.

Lord of our lives, lead through the darkness, Let us burn bright for Your name.

Shine through us, Lord. Make us Your candle. . Consume us now with Your flame.

We are the seekers of Light.

We are the seekers of Light.

Invitation and Communion Prayer Pastor Felix Carrión

PASTOR: Welcome, friends, to this holy sharing.

ALL: Welcome to offer love.

PASTOR: Welcome to this time set apart.

ALL: A time to remember the holy promises of God.

PASTOR: Welcome to this table of remembrance and joy.

ALL: The table where we are fed, the feast we share with many.

Communion Prayer

Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup

Sharing the Elements

**all elements are gluten free*

Pastoral Prayer

Congregation

The New Zealand Book of Prayer

ALL: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustains our hope and comes on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

***Congregational Song**

Congregation

Sing! #196 "Let It Shine" vs. 1 & 3

Let it shine, let it shine,
The light of the world that shows the way;
Let it shine, let it shine,
And show us peace today.

The church bears witness to God's grace,
Its mission crystal clear:
to show the world God's human face,
a world that God holds dear.

Let it shine, let it shine,
The light of the world that shows the way;
Let it shine, let it shine,
And show us peace today.

Now let us give ourselves to God
Within this war-torn world,
And work till justice walks abroad

With flags of peace unfurled.

Let it shine, let it shine,
The light of the world that shows the way;
Let it shine, let it shine,
And show us peace today.

Benediction

Pastor Felix Carrión

Song of Parting

Congregation

Sing! #205 "Dance Into Joy" vs. 1

So dance into joy with hands upraised.
Greet each new day as the holiest of days,
and to your God sing great songs of praise,
To your God sing praise!

Share from your path some strand of light
Bring all the shades both dark and light,
Weaving together makes us all one.
Stories of hope have just begun.

So dance into joy with hands upraised.
Greet each new day as the holiest of days,
and to your God sing great songs of praise,
To your God sing praise!

Postlude

Ceteka Perry

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Cii-jayy Jones

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Scott Edmonds

Sound: Tony Trosclair

Guest Pianist: Ceteka Perry

Pastor Felix Carrión

Designated Pastor

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