



**The First Church in Albany  
(Reformed Church in America)**  
Founded in 1642; Continuing in Ministry Today.

*In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community. The First Church in Albany includes young and old, families, couples and singles, rich and poor, persons of various races, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities, differing physical and mental abilities, believers and seekers. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where we are loved.*

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**Prelude Reflection** *a haiku for today's worship*

Harvest's edge we leave,  
To the needy, love we give,  
God's light guides, we believe.

**Prelude**

*"Fugue"  
"Trio"*

L. Marchand  
J.G. Rheinberger

**Tolling of Bell:** *Bell tolled by children of First Church*

**Welcome, Announcements, & Blessing** *2 Corinthians 13:13, NIV*

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." **Amen.**

## Call to Worship

Votum: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.  
**Amen.**

Leader: Today, the light of morning has broken, and we rise to worship our God.

**People: We come to bask in the light of the world, Jesus Christ.**

Leader: In the book of John, Jesus declared, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

**People: We follow you, O Christ, the illuminator of our lives.**

Leader: In a world often shrouded in darkness, we find our hope, purpose, and salvation in the radiant presence of Jesus.

**People: In you, Jesus, we discover the path to eternal light and truth.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who dispels the shadows, the One who radiates grace and love, and who guides us into the brilliance of His light.

**People: We worship you, Jesus, the Light of the World, and we walk in your radiant way.**

**\*Opening Hymn**      *"Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"*      (see insert)

## Prayer of Confession

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

**If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."**

**Lord, we confess to the ways we live in the dark. Send your Holy Spirit to illuminate those areas of our lives so we might truly know new life. Amen.**

*Time of silence*

## Assurance of Pardon & Fulfillment of the Law

Hear these words of good news from 1 Peter 2:

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

Accept Christ's mercy, and live in God's marvelous light.

## **\*Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us greet one another with a hand-sign of peace.



Touch your thumb to the tip of your ring finger, and wave to one another. This hand-sign makes Christ's gesture of blessing in a lot of iconography in the Orthodox Tradition.

**Children's Message & Blessing** *The Rev. Lindsey DeKruif, Synod Program Coordinator for The Regional Synod of Albany*

## **Prayer for Illumination** *Psalm 119:105*

**Jesus, "thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." We ask for the presence of your Holy Spirit to illuminate your Word for us today, so we may walk in the path of righteousness. Amen.**

## **First Reading** Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **Sermon Text** Leviticus 19:9-18

"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

"You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord.

"You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

“You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord.

“You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

*The Gospel According To Leviticus*

## **A Prayer of Blessing on the Word**

**\*Hymn of Response**      *“Let Streams of Living Justice”*      (see insert)

## **Pantry Bag Blessing** *Based on Leviticus 19:9-10*

Leader: Today, we bless these Thanksgiving bags, guided by Scripture. As we heard, Leviticus 19:9-10 teaches us to share our harvest with the needy. Let us pray:

**People: We thank you, Lord, for the abundance you have provided and for the opportunity to extend your love through these Thanksgiving bags.**

Leader: Bless these bags, the hands that prepared them, and those who will receive them.

**People: May they bring nourishment, warmth, and hope to those in need. Help us remain compassionate, serving our neighbors in your name.**

Leader: It is in your name we dedicate these bags. **Amen.**

**Tithes & Offerings:** *If you would like to connect more with the life and mission of First Church, please fill out a Welcome Card found in your pew and place it in the offering as it goes by.*

## **Offertory**

*“Longing for Light”*

arr. H. von Bülow

## **\*Doxology**

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

## **A Prayer for Veteran's Day & Peace** *Adapted from a prayer by The Church of Scotland*

Leader: Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace. For the service members who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered by and known to God;

**People: May God give peace.**

Leader: For those who love them in death as in life, we give you the distress of those who grieve and the sadness of their loss;

**People: May God give peace.**

Leader: For all members of armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

**People: May God give peace.**

Leader: For civilians whose lives are brutalized by war or terror, calling to mind the anger and hatred so many know personally, praying in particular today for Ukraine, Yemen, Israel, Palestine, and all places where conflict and violence exist.

**People: May God give peace.**

Leader: For peacemakers and peacekeepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free; all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership – political, military and religious.

**People: May God give peace.**

Leader: O God of truth and justice, help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

**People: As we honor the past, may we put our faith in Your future; for You are the source of life and hope, now and forever. We do so as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying:**

## **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**     *"I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light"*     (see insert)

**\*Charge & Blessing**

**Postlude**

*"Celebrate Life"*

arr. F. Liszt

**We wish each of you a blessed week, until we meet again.**

**Minister:** Rev. Trey Tirpak  
**Liturgist:** Rev. Lindsey DeKruif, Synod Program Coordinator  
**Consistory Chaplain of the Day:** TBD  
**Pianist:** Iteke Prins  
**Audio/Visual:** Joshua Bliss, Stephen Reohr

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**Note:** Please gather in Zimmerman Hall to help pack the Thanksgiving Bags for the First Church Food Pantry!

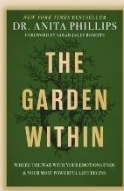
Note: If you would still like to give towards gift cards for these bags, it's not too late! Just indicate on a giving envelope or check that you are choosing to give towards these gift cards.

### ***Opportunities for Christian Spiritual Practice and Soul Development***

- 1st Thursday Night Worship each month. 6pm potluck and fellowship. 7pm worship.
- 

**THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**  
**2ND & 3RD THURSDAYS AT 7PM**

With Sr. Minister of First Church, Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston,  
via zoom & podcast



"Join me on Thursday, November on Zoom.  
**Red Alert:** This bible study is for the emotionally mature and adventurous. Many of your beliefs may be challenged. Some ideas presented may make you uncomfortable. To that, I say to God be the glory!!!"

The overall structure is the braiding of three disciplines like three strands of hair. The three strands include theology, psychology, and science. My prayer is that this bible study nourishes you holistically. May better meet the world we live in today. At a minimum, I hope it gives you pause to reflect on your beliefs. Please note there will be times when we pause to examine branches of colonialism, sexism, racism, xenophobia, and whatever else may be rooted in the hate.

Please join me on November 16, 2024, at 7 p.m. by clicking on the Zoom link found on the [www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org) website.

- Wednesdays... Centering Prayer at 12noon in Powell room.
- Tuesdays... Online Bible Study please see Ian Leet
- 9Up: a ministry of Christian teaching for children through art. Every Sunday except 1st.



# Prayers, Joys & Concerns

If you have a concern or joy you would like to share with our church family, email [office@firstchurchinalbany.org](mailto:office@firstchurchinalbany.org) or call the office at 518-463-4449

- Donna Schultz
- Jeff Curry
- Yono Purnomo, chef at neighbor Yono's Restaurant, on Sheridan and Chapel, awaiting a kidney for transplant
- Avery Bradley, granddaughter of Marilyn and David, an athlete recovering from a leg injury that required surgery
- Norma McClement
- From our pantry family, Maureen Jackson and her brother Maurice, both dealing with health issues
- Family of Gillian Persons and for her sister Sylvia
- For Shirley Mockel, good friend of Marilyn Bradley, with health concerns.
- Kathleen Claydon
- Doug Plummer, friend of the Bradley family, as he begins treatment for health concerns
- Becky Gardner
- Virginia Giguere and family as they mourn the passing of an uncle and a cousin
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, recovering
- Carol LaBatte
- Sharnelle Jones
- Joeanna Brown
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Family of Norma Jean Ballou
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley- Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.

## Join Us for This Week's Events

SUN NOV.  
12

- 10am: Sunday Worship (also on Zoom and YouTube), See our website for links to worship info.
- PACKING THANKSGIVING BAGS AFTER WORSHIP

MON  
13

- 9am: Food Pantry at Orange St. Door

TUE  
14

- THANKSGIVING BAG DISTRIBUTION DAY
- Noon: Adult Book Study on Zoom



Scan for  
full event  
calendar

WED  
15

- 9am: Food Pantry at Orange St. Door
- Noon: Centering Prayer (Powell), AA Mtg (Parlor)
- 12:30PM: WEATHERVANES

THU  
16

- 11:30am: Soup & Sammies in the Park
- 7pm: Zoom Bible Study (see website)

Worship now streaming  
live on YouTube.





# 2023 NOVEMBER

| SUN  | MON   | TUE  | WED   | THU  | FRI   | SAT   |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <br>Nov. 5 @ 2am<br>Clocks back 1 hr                                    |                                  |                                   | 1   | 2<br><br>Potluck & First<br>Thursday<br>Night of<br>Worship<br><i>G</i> | 3   | 4   |
| 5<br><br>Communion<br>Sunday<br>All Saints<br>Sunday<br><i>M</i>        | 6<br><br>Prayer Shawl<br>Meeting | 7<br><br>Polling Place            | 8<br><br>AA  | 9<br><br>Zoom Bible Study 7pm   | 10<br>Veteran's Day<br>observed<br>Office Closed                                      | 11<br>Veteran's Day   |
| 12<br><br>Pack Thanks-<br>giving bags<br><i>T</i>                       | 13<br>                           | 14<br><br>Thanksgiving<br>Bag Day | 15<br><br>AA<br> Weathervanes | 16<br><br>Zoom Bible Study 7pm  | 17  | 18<br><br>Advent<br>Decoration TBD |
| 19<br><br>Consecration<br>Sunday<br>Advent<br>Decoration 1<br><i>T</i> | 20<br>                          | 21<br>                           | 22<br><br>AA  | 23<br><br>Thanksgiving<br>Day, Office<br>Closed                       | 24<br>Office Closed   | 25  |
| 26<br><br>Advent<br>Decoration 2<br><i>M</i>                          | 27<br>                         | 28<br>                          | 29<br><br>AA   | 30<br>  |  |   |

Key:



Indoor  
Worship  
10am



Communion  
Sunday



Coffee  
Hour



Pantry  
9am



Centering  
Prayer 12pm



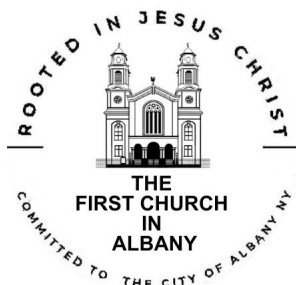
Book  
Study



Soup &  
PB&J  
11:30am

**Preacher:** *M* Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston

*T* Rev. Trey Tirpak *G* Guest



## First Church in Albany

110 North Pearl St.

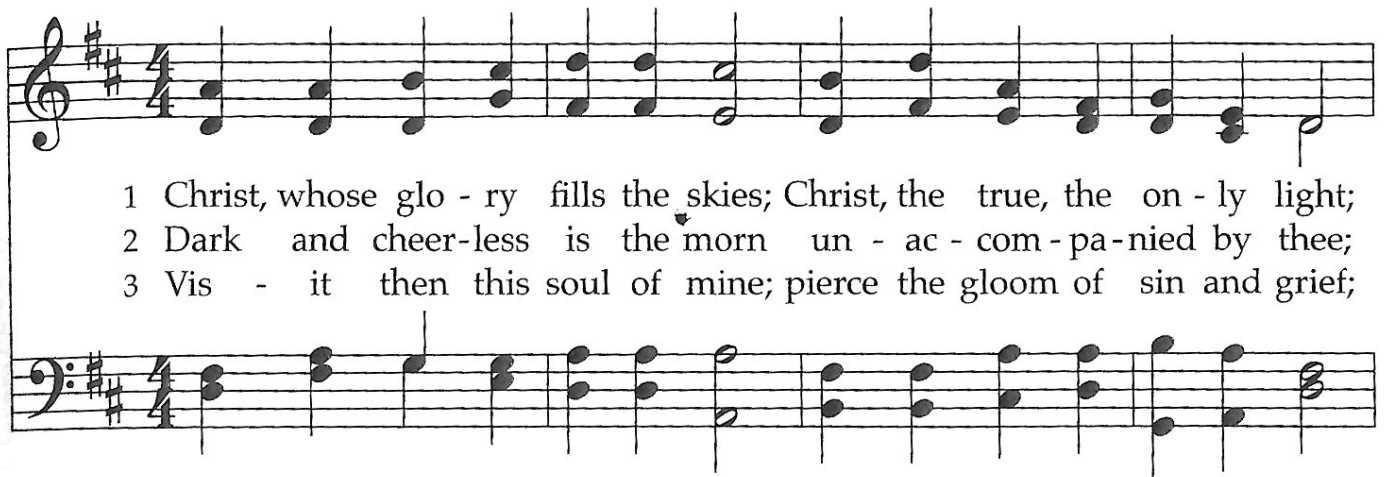
Albany NY 12207

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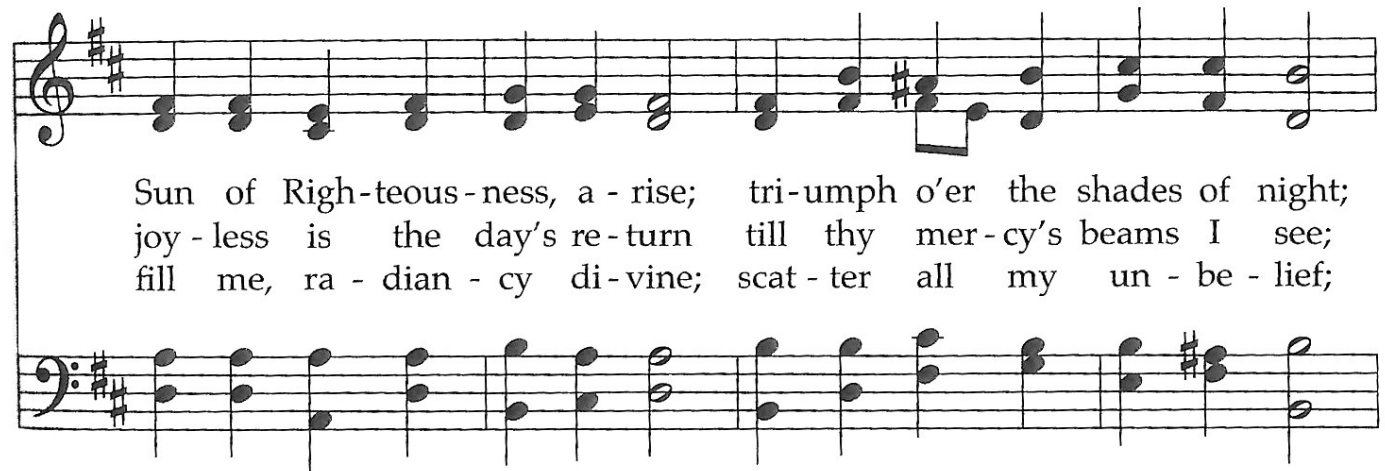
[www.firstchurchinalbany.org](http://www.firstchurchinalbany.org)



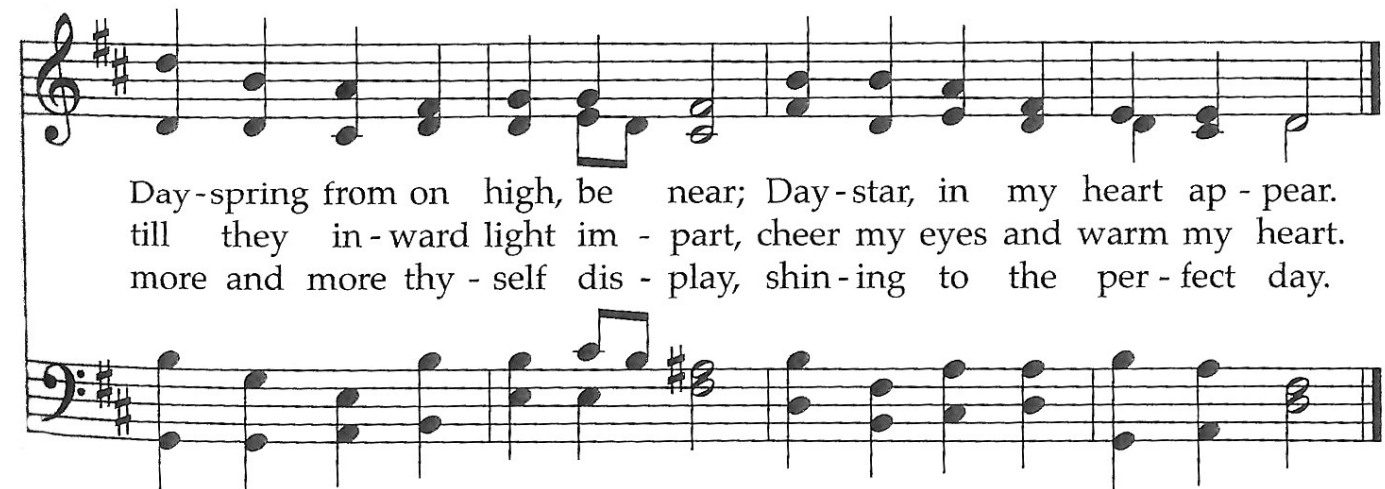
# Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - panied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

This well-crafted morning hymn opens by celebrating daylight as an image of Christ, the true Light, then ponders life without light, and culminates in a prayer for inward light. The tune's name honors its German roots: Ratisbon is the former English name for Regensburg.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740

MUSIC: German folk melody; adapt. Johann Werner, 1815; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847

RATISBON

7.7.7.7.7.7

# Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

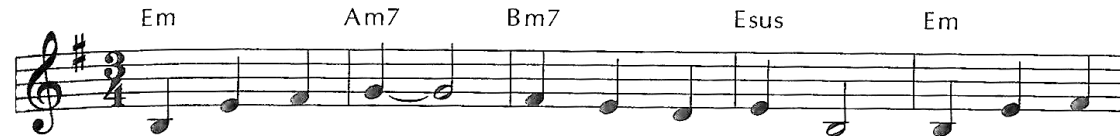
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

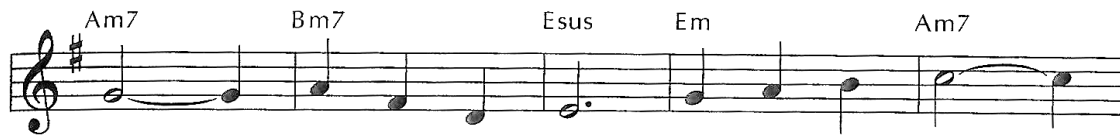
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# Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

## Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for  
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



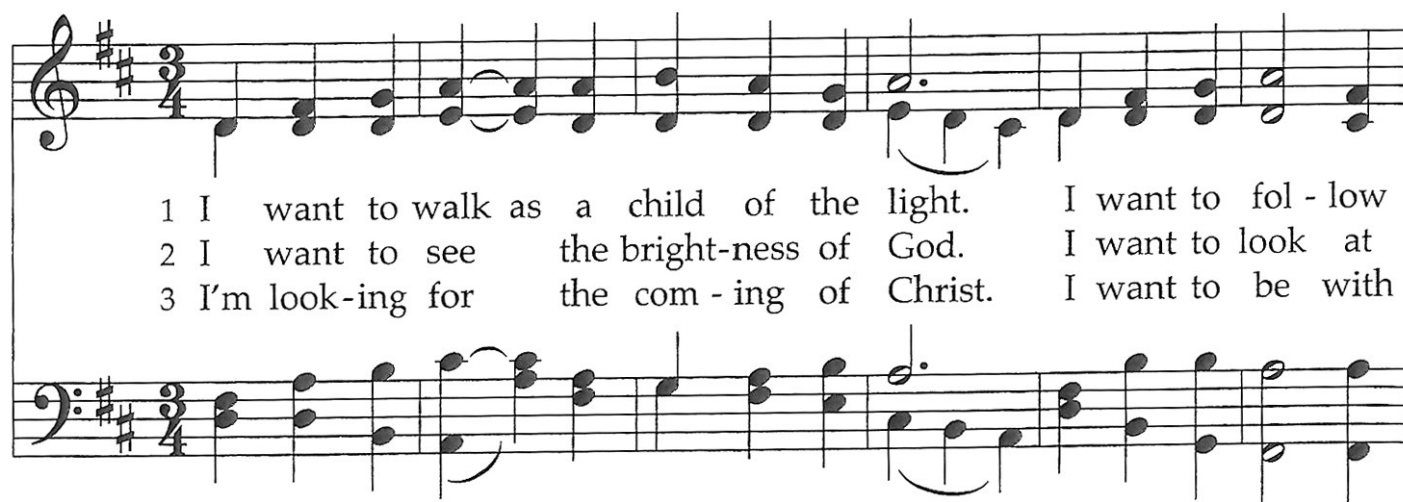
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



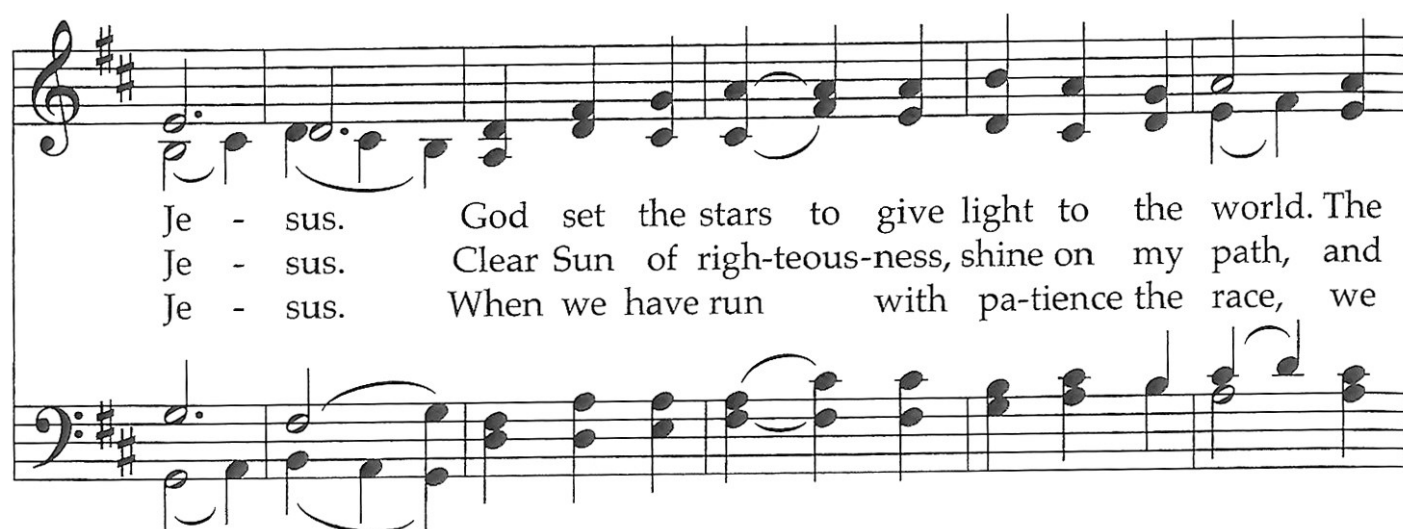
church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

# I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

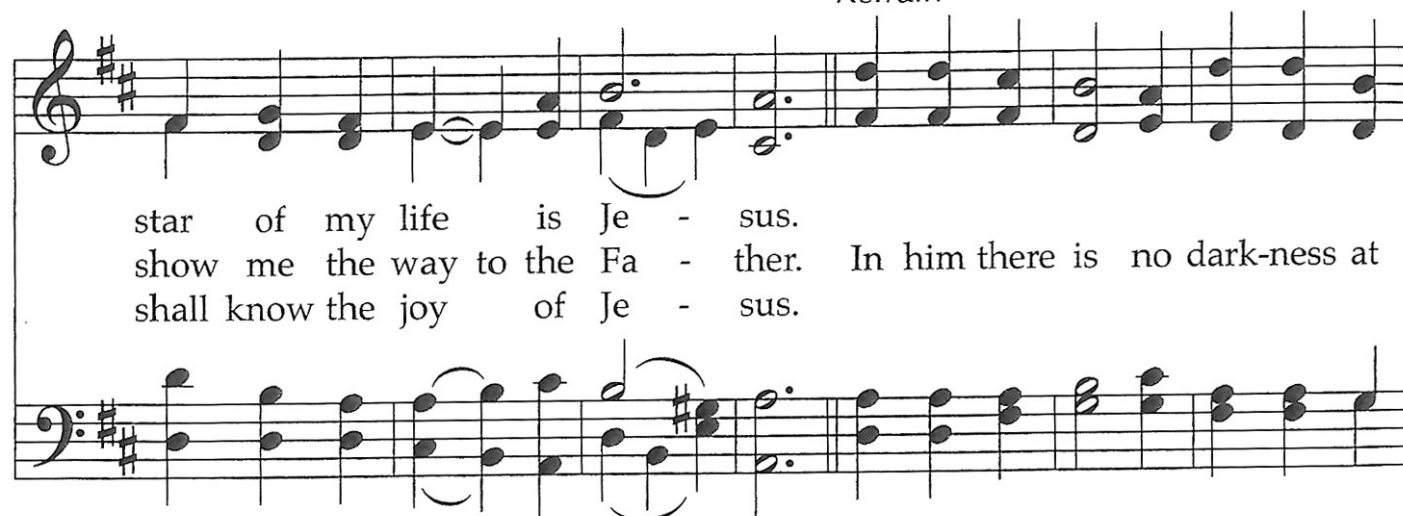


1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at  
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with



Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and  
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

## Refrain



star of my life is Je - sus.  
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at  
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The author/composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many Scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2