



KENILWORTH UNION
CHURCH

Kenilworth Union Church
Connect to Mid-Day Prayer
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
12:15 p.m.

*The light of Christ is the brightness of God
shining on the retina of the human soul.* —John Piper

Opening Prayer

Pamela Hawkins

O Holy Spirit, we thank you
For the life-giving light you bring to our days
And the life-giving grace you bring to our lives.
Grant to us new eyes to see, new ears to listen,
A new heart ready to hold the light that is Christ's love.

Amen

Responsive Reading

from Matthew 4, 5; John 8, 9

Leader: The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

All: Jesus said: I am the light of the world.

Leader: You are the light of the world... No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

All: Jesus said: While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Leader: In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

All: Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.
Live as children of light for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.
Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.
For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.
Therefore, it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

A Connected Church

Sermon Central, 8/6/2010

There is a small strip of sand called Castle Island near the eastern end of the Bahamas archipelago. Few people are aware of it, but as tiny and isolated as it is, Castle Island is important because of its lighthouse. The island has one lone inhabitant, the lighthouse keeper.

One night, a young man sailing in the area was able to reach safety only by following the light from the lighthouse. He anchored his sailboat off of the lighthouse and, when the sun rose, swam to shore to exercise his legs on the beach. The lighthouse keeper was surprised to see another person and delighted to have human company. He invited the young man to join him for a meal and a tour of the lighthouse.

The young man climbed the winding staircase to the lantern room at the top of the stairs and was astonished at the size of the light that had signaled safe passage through the maze of shoals and reefs he had been sailing in the night before! The light was a tiny kerosene flame—barely bright enough to read by—yet, with the aid of mirrors and reflectors, had been visible 25 miles out to sea.

Jesus tells us to let our light shine and to be the light of the world. We may wonder, but what if our light is a very dim one? What if our good works are few and small? Our little light is magnified in the immense mirror of almighty God's love. God's reflectors are human hearts—spreading the flame of kindness one to another. The story of the Castle Island's lighthouse reminds of us that even the most insignificant action or deed on our part can be a mirror or reflector of Christ's love within us and can cast a light on those around us far greater than we can even conceive.

Prayers of the People

God of light, today we seek the soft, quiet light that comes from living a life in Christ. We pray that you will turn our thoughts towards your light and lead us to feel your light spread within us as we now, in stillness, pause to seek your presence. (60 seconds of Silence)

We give thanks for this church and its welcome Sanctuary from the world's sometimes harsh bright light; and for the light that comes to us through our church pastors, teachers, and leaders. We pray this week for blessing and light for these Kenilworth Union Church members: Diane Bruce; Mike and Donna Brunso; Chad and Lindsey Bruso; Neville Bryan; Amy Buck; Allan and Sallie Bulley; Linda Bunch; Steve and Judy Bundra; Jeff and Jennifer Burch; Lynn Burt; Robert Burton and Julie Yen; Beth Busch; Pat and Jane Cahill; Ryan and Laurie Cahill; Dave and Debby Caldwell; Kristin Camorlinga; Dave and Linda Campbell; Kate Campbell; Sally Campbell.

God of all wisdom, we pray for your world, a world in which those with authority over others so often lord it over them, serving only their own means, and using methods of violence, cruelty, and intimidation as a matter of course. We pray that true authority will grow across this world that serves the common good of all people. We bring places of conflict and war before you, not least Ukraine. And we pray for a just resolution and swift end to all bloodshed. May the light of the world shine in the hearts of all affected, and all who are struggling.

Loving God, we pray for people in this country who struggle to see justice, for those who have not been able to find work for months or years, and for those who depend on food banks to survive, and for those who have given up hope for the future. We pray that you will impress upon each of us the determination to give our all to help the vulnerable among us, and the courage to give generously of our time and talents to spread your light across the world.

God of hope, we pray for those we know who are weary, grieving, overwhelmed with troubles, ill or undergoing tests, and anxious about themselves or loved ones. We remember and ask for your gracious presence to be with each person we now name to you.

O Lord who shines light on our path in life, we ask all these things through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us when praying to say:

**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 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,
forever. Amen.**

Blessing

May the Lord be your light and salvation.

May God make your darkness to be bright.

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

Amen.