

ORDER OF LIVE ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

January 10, 2021

First Sunday after Epiphany

GREETING

PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

Chorale Fantasia on *Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern*, v. 2

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Monique Weiss Byrnes, organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN *Arise, Your Light Has Come*, vv. 1-2 #164 (NCH)

Arise, your light is come—the Spirit's call obey! Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise, your light is come—fling wide the prison door! Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

RESPONSORIAL READING

Response—Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

Response—Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them.

Response—Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes.

Response—Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

SCRIPTURE—Ezekiel 2: 1-7

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them. And you, O mortal, do not be afraid of them, and do not be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns surround you and you live among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words, and do not be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. You shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear; for they are a rebellious house.

VOCAL DUET *Bethlehem, of noble cities*

Alan Bullard (b.1942)

Jonathan Zink - tenor, Connor Burke - bass

Monique Weiss Byrnes - director, organist

Bethlehem, of noblest cities, no one can with you compare; you alone the Lord from heaven, did for us incarnate bear. Fairer than the sun at morning, was the star at Jesus' birth; to all lands our God announcing, seen in fleshly form on earth. By its lambent beauty guided, see the eastern kings appear: see them bend their gifts to offer, gifts of incense, gold and myrrh. Solemn gifts of mystic meaning: incense does our God disclose, gold a royal child proclaiming, myrrh a future tomb foreshows. Holy Jesus, in your brightness to the wider world displayed, with the blest Creator Spirit endless praise to you be paid.

SERMON *“It is time to do something different.”*

HYMN *Let Justice Flow Like Streams*, vv. 1-3 #588 (NCH)

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed, an everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true, and justice, right and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

CALL TO PRAYER AND SILENCE

[People may Unmute themselves to offer their Prayer Requests.]

LORD'S PRAYER—Chalice 307

OFFERING

DEPARTING HYMN *Arise, Your Light Has Come*, vv. 3-4 #164 (NCH)

Arise, your light is come--! All you in sorrow born, bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come—the mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE—

Chorale Fantasia on *Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern*, v. 5

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Monique Weiss Byrnes, organist

HYMN NOTES

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ST. THOMAS

Text: Jane Parker Huber (b.1926)

Tune: Aaron Williams (1731-1776)

Jane Parker Huber incorporated two verses from the Hebrew prophet Amos: 5:24 and 7:8 for this text. She wanted to convey the idea of the necessity of 'measuring up' to God's standards, setting a goal to inspire a community's progress in working toward God's justice.

Jane Parker Huber was born in Jinan, China, the daughter of Presbyterian missionary parents stationed there. She grew up on the campus of Hanover College, Indiana, as her father served as president of that institution from 1929 until 1958.

This anonymous melody is named ST. THOMAS. It was part of a longer hymn tune called HOLBORN in Aaron Williams's *The Universal Psalmist* (1763) and appeared in the present version in Isaac Smith's *A Collection of Psalm Tunes* (1770) as a setting for Psalm 48. However, the composer responsible for the arrangement is unknown.

Aaron Williams (1731-1776) published *The Universal Psalmist* in 1763 and added various editions in later years, including *The New Universal Psalmist* (1770). Williams was a music engraver and publisher and was also a teacher in the city of London, England, where he was born and died.

The New Century Hymnal Companion

Arise, Your Light Is Come

FESTAL SONG

Text: Ruth Duck (b.1947)

Music: William Henry Walter (1825-1893)

Arise, Your Light is Come, based on Isaiah 60 and 61, is one of the earliest hymns published in a denominational hymnal by Ruth Duck. It first appeared in the Ecumenical Women's Centers' hymnal *Because We Are One People* in 1974.

Ruth was raised in Tennessee. She received her undergraduate degree from Rhodes College, two master degrees, one from Chicago Theological Seminary and the other from University of Notre Dame, and she earned her Doctorate in Theology from Boston University. She served as pastor at United Church of Christ parishes in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts. Presently, Ruth is a professor of worship Emerita at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Illinois. Her powerful inclusive texts express a language that speaks of God in universal terms and in poignant poetry. Fifty-eight of her texts are published in a collection of hymns and songs, *Dancing in the Universe*.

In 2013, Ruth Duck was awarded the highest honor, by being named a *Fellow of the The Hymn Society* of the United States and Canada for her pioneering work in inclusive language for worship and her work as hymn poet and teacher.

William Henry Walker was born in Newark, New Jersey. He showed musical talent at a very early age and as a boy began playing the organ at two churches in Newark. In his early music career he taught in public schools, and was associate organist of Trinity Church in Manhattan. He received an Honorary Doctorate in Music from Columbia University in 1864 and in 1865 was appointed organist of the University. He composed 43 hymn tunes, most of them published in *The Church Hymnal, Revised and Enlarged* (1908). He originally composed FESTAL SONG for the hymn *Awake and Sing the Song*. The hymn tune has been paired with many hymn texts sung in several hymnals today.

Musically,
Monique Weiss Byrnes