



January 2, 2022

New Year's online worship

Welcome & Announcements ~ Jan Richardson

Greetings & Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

Have you ever tried to walk along the rail of a railway track? You can swing your arms out for balance, but you can only get so far before you fall off. The interesting thing is that if someone is on the rail parallel to yours and holds your hands in the middle, you can walk much further than you could alone.

This was an observation from Elder Dr. Wilton (Willie) Littlechild some years ago as an analogy for reconciliation. In this spirit, we are invited to walk together in our knowledge and understanding that we are part of Treaty 7; territory is home to Metis Nation Region 3.

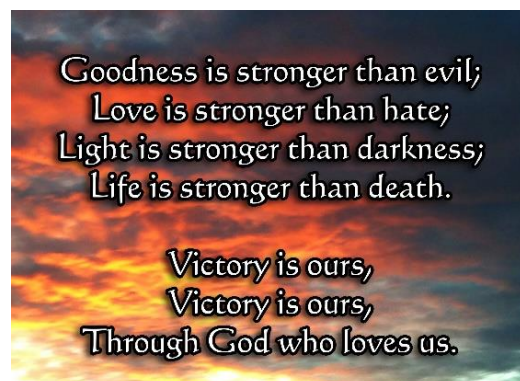
Candle Lighting & Centering

A Prayer by Desmond Tutu, from An African Prayerbook, Capetown, South Africa

Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours, victory is ours, through God who loves us.
May it be so for this New Year and beyond.
Amen and Amen!

Video version ~ a musical setting of Tutu's prayer

<https://youtu.be/yQKwh43z5rM>



Call to Worship

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph, **God is there.**

When Jesus is presented at the temple, **God is there.**

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms, **God is there.**

When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple, **God is there.**

This very morning, **God is here.**

In the future we cannot see, **God is there.**

Let us worship God!

— written by Rev. Robert George, Karen George, Judy Colby-George, in *Past Meets Future: A Blessing for Today*, posted on <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/past-meets-future-a-blessing-for-today-year-c-december-30-2018/>

Hymn ~ *In the Quiet Curve of Evening* #278 VU

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Video version as shared by Trinity United Church <https://youtu.be/o5SVHB9eJKY>

Prayer that includes thanks for Archbishop Desmond Tutu's life and gifts

This prayer is attributed to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu adapted from an original prayer by Sir Francis Drake. May those of us left to carry Desmond Tutu's legacy for freedom, non-violence, peace and inclusive love, not be burdened by what we have lost but lifted by his spirit.

**Disturb us, O Lord, when we are too well-pleased with ourselves,
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
because we sailed too close to the shore.**

**Disturb us, O Lord, when, with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life; when, having fallen in love with time,
we have ceased to dream of eternity, and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.**

**Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas,
where storms show Thy mastery, where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes
and invited the brave to follow. Amen**

<https://godspacelight.com/2012/03/02/disturb-us-o-lord-a-prayer-by-desmond-tutu-4/>

A Reading from Luke 2:22-38

The people of Israel who welcome Jesus to the Temple are represented by Simeon and Anna.

Hymn ~ Hymn: Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus #2 VU

Words: Charles Wesley 1744. Music: Psalmody Sacra 1715 Public Domain.

Video from Shining Waters Regional Council <https://youtu.be/8UPIGKvYw3Y>

Minister's Message/Reflection

Special Music ~ *Nothing But a Child* by Steve Earle, sung by Jan & Bob Richardson

Prayers of the Gathered Community

(We hold silence for Others, for Ourselves, and for God's World)...

& The Prayer Jesus Taught

Prayer of Blessing ~ As Simeon Sees

May God let you see what others miss: promise cradled in every wonder,
the flow of life shaping a sacred story, where love, and you, dance together daily.
And when eyes that have seen all living draw into focus salvation's intent,
may they recognise at days end a promise, a deed, a gift fresh born in the world.

By Roddy Hamilton, *Mucky Paws*, Volume 3

Closing Hymn: See Amid the Winter's Snow

Music: John Goss, 1871, #76 VU and Lyrics adapted by Linnea Good

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Video version shared by Linnea Good <https://youtu.be/kMyIBCdpDjc>