

**The United Church of Canada
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge
5th after Epiphany, February 01, 2026
Kilbride 9:30 a.m.; Carlisle 11:00 a.m.**



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*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.*

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Welcome to this place and to this time together. We are pleased that you could join us today as your presence helps to enrich the experience of worship.

As we worship God, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of (*Kilbride*: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),
(*Carlisle*: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),
who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

The Life and Work of the Church

Lighting of the Christ Candle

People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ~*Matthew 5:15,16*

The light of Christ is in our midst. Let us share the light of Christ.

Gathering

Centring Music: VU 701 – What Does the Lord Require of You

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1986

Jay Esplana, Lindsay Warnock, and Jason Nickel sing Jim Strathdee's three-part hymn for a service at Canadian Memorial United Church, an Affirming community in Vancouver.

[What Does the Lord Require of You | Sunday Service | Canadian Memorial United Church \(CMUC Music\)](#)

- 1 What does the Lord require of you?
 What does the Lord require of you? (x2)
- 2 Justice, kindness,
 walk humbly with your God. (x2)
- 3 To seek justice, and love kindness,
 and walk humbly with your God. (x2)

Invitation to Worship: *written by Richard Bott in Gathering, ACE 2025/26, p. 43, used with permission*

What does it mean to be salt and light to the world?

Salt preserves. Light keeps things from being hidden.

What does it mean to be salt and light to the world?

To hold on to what is good.

To hold on to what is right.

To hold on to what is just.

To shine in the back rooms of oppression.

To shine in the prisons of fear.

To shine in places that have no hope.

This is salt and light to the world.

This is Christ's people—

salt and light—

hope and wonder—

in and with the world!

As salt and light,

As hope and wonder,

Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer: *from Celebrate God's Presence*

Eternal God, radiant with grace,
thaw our fears and snow-bound spirits;
make us shine with your Word,

our hope;

shine with your communion,

our life;

shine with your peace,

our joy;

through Christ,

who is our Light. Amen.

Hymn: VU 82 – A Light Is Gleaming

Words & Music: Linnea Good 1992

Members of Golden Ears United Church in Maple Ridge, BC, perform Linnea Good's 1992 hymn. Golden Ears is "an Affirming Christian community for faith, justice and music" whose congregational singing is often led by a trio of talent: Music Director Diane Lines, vocalist Sam Ellington, and percussionist Estelle Cormier.

VU 82 A Light is Gleaming

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.

Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.

- 1 When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,

our memories and tears. R

2 When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
"God's light will ever stay." R

3 And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be a sign: R

4 So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,
and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here a-sparkle and ablaze,
warming all our days. R

Prayer for Grace and Assurance of Grace

Sung Response: VU 701 – What Does the Lord Require of You

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1986

[What Does the Lord Require of You | Sunday Service | Canadian Memorial United Church \(CMUC Music\)](#)

1 What does the Lord require of you?
What does the Lord require of you? (x2)

2 Justice, kindness,
walk humbly with your God. (x2)

3 To seek justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God. (x2)

Prayer for Illumination:

O God, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear what you are saying to us today. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12

The fast that God chooses

58:1 Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

58:2 Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

58:3 "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

58:4 You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

58:5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

58:6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

58:7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

58:8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

58:9a Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

58:9b If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

58:10 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

58:11 The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

58:12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

The teaching of Christ: salt and light

5:13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

5:15 People do not light a lamp put it under the bushel basket; rather they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

5:18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

5:19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Response:

The words of our faith spoken among us.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Reflection

Hymn: TLUS 30 – We're the Light of All the World (We Are a Rainbow)

Words & Music: David Kai 2017, rev. 2023

David Kai is a retired diaconal minister, a musician, and a composer of hymn tunes and arrangements. He was part of the team that prepared the *Voices United* hymnal as well as the UCC's new hymnal, *Then Let Us Sing!*, in which this affirming hymn appears.

We Are a Rainbow for All the World

1 We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
we're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
we will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore,
we will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace
for the flood of tears will fin'ly cease to be,
come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.

2 We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many diff'rent threads,
cov'ring all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
God said "Let there be light", created every varied shade,
in the rainbow each of us can find a place. R

3 We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
we are peace in a world that's torn apart,
we are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face
we are love that blooms and grows in every heart. R

4 When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,
for our God will be with us on the way,

here we are, side by side, we won't be frightened anymore,
as the mourning night of tears breaks into day. R

Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.

Offering Prayer: *written by Lynn McCaw in Gathering, ACE-2025/26, p. 46 used with permission*

Generous God, we give you back a portion of what you have blessed us with. Bless these gifts and use them to further your work in this church, this community, and around the world. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory: TLUS 130 (v. 1) – Who Will Speak a Word of Warning

Words: Richard Leach 2000; Music: Thomas John Williams 1890

Richard Leach's 2000 lyrics are a call to action, speaking against economic injustice in its first of three verses. These words are set to the 1890 tune EBENEZER, which you will recognize from "Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us" (VU 198).

[Who will speak a word of warning \(Ebenezer\)](#)

- 1 Who will speak a word of warning to a world whose wealth expands,
as the growing wealth is gathered into ever fewer hands?
Christ, you speak a word of warning for the church to know and tell:
greed is death and life is giving; hands that give receive as well.

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus:

[Sing into prayer: VU 400 – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying](#)

Words & Music: Ken Medema 1970

Kathleen Theisen, Director of Music Ministry at First Congregational Church in Ridgefield, Connecticut, performs Ken Medema's piece, including the verses.

[Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying by Ken Medema - Kathleen Theisen, piano & voice \(COVER\)](#)

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Hymn: VU 585 – Jesus Bids Us Shine

Words: Susan Warner 1868, alt.; Music: Edwin O. Excell 1884

Fun fact: The writer of this hymn, Susan Warner, is the sister of Anna Warner, the woman who penned the lyrics to another beloved children's classic: "Jesus Loves Me" (1859). These New York sisters both wrote novels and children's stories and, living near West Point, conducted Bible classes for cadets. "Jesus Bids Us Shine" is performed by Canadian-born American gospel bass-baritone George Beverly Shea, who began his career in the 1930s and continued to perform into his 100s!

[Jesus Bids Us Shine](#)

- 1 Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world of darkness, so let us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 2 Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 3 Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
many kinds of darkness in this world are found:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

Commissioning:

Go and proclaim the simple message of hope:

that God is Love, always sustaining all creation.

Go and live out the complex reality of faith:

that Jesus calls us to live with compassion and generosity in a world that struggles to perceive Love's power.

Go and become disciples alive:

For the Spirit guides us and prods and enlivens, yet always accompanies us.

Benediction

Sung Sending Forth: This Little Light of Mine

Source: [Hymns and Devotions for Daily Worship \(African American Edition\)](#), public domain

There are so many recordings of this American gospel song that it's difficult to choose just one... so here are *two*, both posted on YouTube by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (also known as the LDS or Mormon Church). The first is an energetic combined choirs performance at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah, in an arrangement by Katie Bastian. The second is a much more introspective arrangement by Emma Murdock, filmed in the beautiful Wasatch Mountains in the western US.

["This Little Light of Mine" | New Music Released in Hymns—For Home and Church](#)
[This Little Light of Mine](#)

- 1 This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,

I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.

3 Deep down in my soul,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Deep down in my soul,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Deep down in my soul,
I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Online Postlude: Lights Shine Bright

American contemporary Christian artist Kevin Michael McKeehan, better known by his stage name TobyMac, is a singer, songwriter, rapper, and music producer performing in the genre of Christian rock and hip hop. He was a member of the Christian rap-rock trio DC Talk from 1987-2000 before moving onto a very successful solo career. "Lights Shine Bright" is from TobyMac's 2015 album *This Is Not a Test*, which won the GMA Dove Award for Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year in 2016 and the Grammy for Best Contemporary Christian Music Album. This track encourages us to be beacons of light in the world.

[TobyMac - Lights Shine Bright ft. Hollyn - YouTube](#)

Credits

Cover Photo: Darla MacLean Audfroid

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- Invitation to Worship written by Richard Bott, p. 43
- Offering Prayer written by Lynn McCaw, p. 46
- Commissioning & Benediction written by Gord Dunbar, p. 46/45

In *Celebrate God's Presence: Opening Prayer*