

Into the Darkness

Last summer I spent a week volunteering as a chaplain at Camp Bethel, near Roanoke. On Thursday evening, the last night of the camp week, we gathered in one of the fields for our closing worship. During a quiet part of the service, I happened to look up in the nearby woods to see a wondrous sight. Thousands of fireflies were glowing in front of the trees! It was a captivating view, one that reminded me of the importance of light to us.

We don't think much about light anymore. Simple, efficient production of illumination through modern electricity is just part of our lives. All we do is flip a switch and light comes on. If it doesn't, we know to replace the bulb or check the circuit breaker.

It's not always been this easy, however. Before the invention of the incandescent bulb, light was more difficult to come by and to sustain. Plus, people viewed darkness as a fearful time of the day. It symbolized the presence of fear and evil, and still does so today. It was in such a time that Jesus entered our world.

Into the darkness, into the fears and evils of our world, we see Jesus—the true light—being born. We hear of John the Baptist, sent from God to witness, to testify to this light. And we know that those who receive the light and believe become children of God.

When we begin to feel oppressed by the darkness, we can turn once again to the true light and be illuminated. Darkness will not overcome us, in the end, even when all seems lost. Jesus offers us this hope—the true light that shines into darkness and gives us life.

—Doug Veal, pastor
Daleville Church of the Brethren
Daleville, Virginia

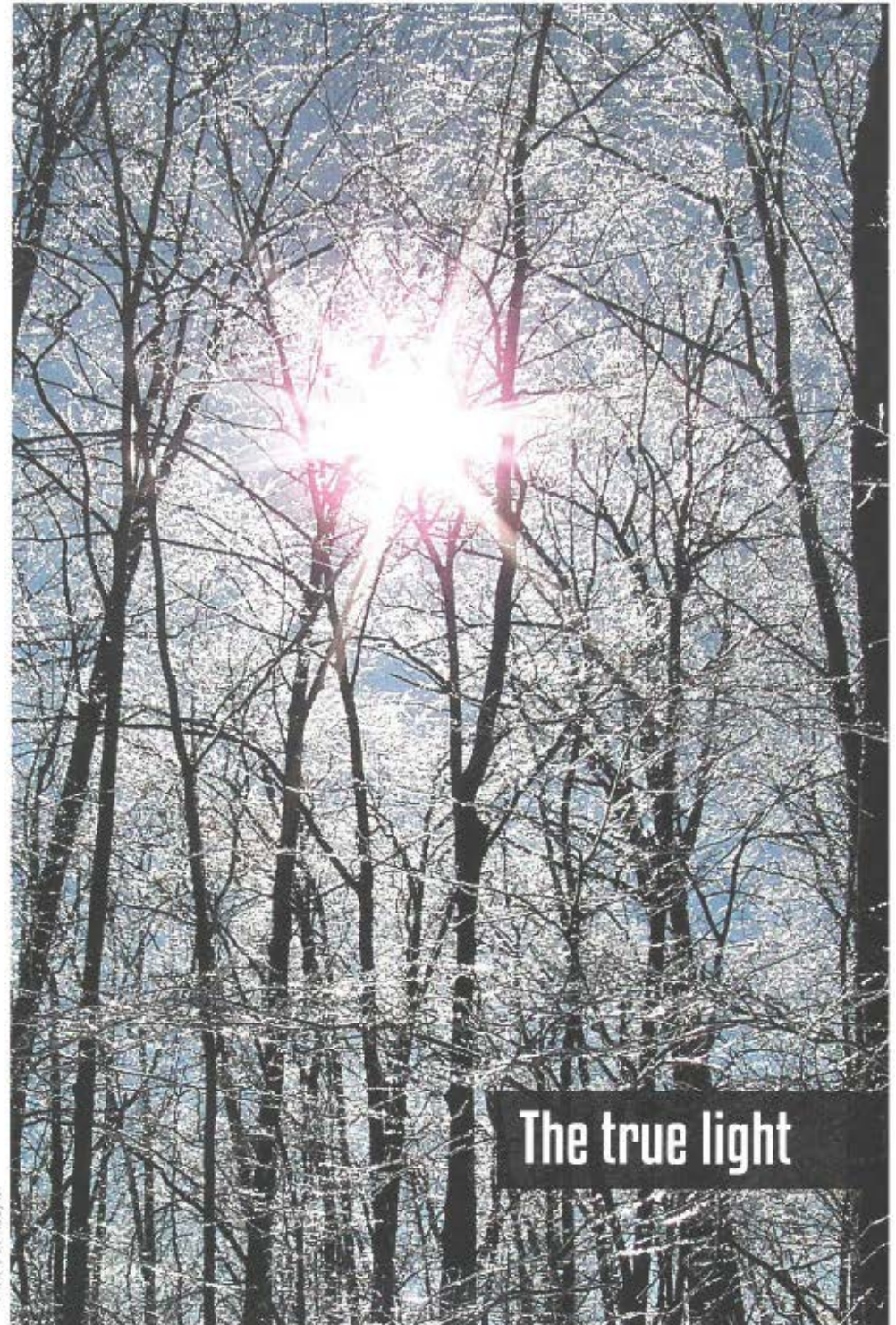
Text for today: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. *The true light*, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:1-12, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18.

01-03-16, Epiphany (6)
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The true light

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

at Worship July 31, 2016 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE Morceau (Piece) *Charles – Alexis Chauvet*
Variations on “Morning Has Broken” *Franklin D. Ashdown*

CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER Jeff Carr
Please sign and pass the *Friendship Register* pad located at the inside aisle of the pew. Signing helps us learn the names of those worshipping near us. After all have signed, the pad can be passed back to the inside aisle.

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather from near and far as people who are called together by...

All: Jesus, the light of the world!

One: Together we are a people of love, mercy and redemption in the way of...

All: Jesus, the light of the world!

One: Together we worship in heart and soul in the name of...

All: Jesus, the light of the world!

***HYMN INSERT** *Light of the World*

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN’S TIME (11:00) Jeff Carr
Children of ALL ages are invited to the front of the sanctuary for a time of building upon and connecting to faith through stories and interactions.

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1-5 *NRSV*

SOLO (11:00) “There Is A Savior” *G. Nelson/S. Patti*
Phyllis Wine, *soloist*

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Sally Jane Conner
Wendell Eller
Sharon Flaten
Alice Lee Hopkins

RESPONDING

***HYMN INSERT** *God of the Bible*

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

(8:30) We bring our tithes and offerings to the worship center.

(11:00) Ushers receive our tithes and offerings.

Prelude on “Trust in Jesus” *Raymond H. Haan*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN # 226** *You are salt for the earth* BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Chorale Improvisation on “God of Grace...” *Paul O. Manz*

* Rise as able in body and spirit.

SANCTUS CHOIR NEWS AND INVITATION

The Sanctus Choir’s dedication through music provides an essential contribution to our worship service and to the life of our church. Please consider joining us. Regular rehearsals for the Sanctus Choir will begin Thursday, August 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. The Sanctus Choir will provide childcare during Thursday rehearsals. Please let us know if you need childcare so arrangements can be made. If you have questions regarding the Sanctus Choir please call Curtis Nolley at 433-3031, email at carnolley@hotmail.com, or contact any Sanctus Choir member.

MEETINGS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & NURTURE

July 31-August 6, 2016 (All events are p.m. unless noted)

This is a church events calendar and does not include all building events use.
Please be sure to schedule ALL EVENTS through the church office.

Today	7:00	Vespers at CrossRoads <i>Trissels Mennonite Church: Harold Miller, speaking</i>	Hilltop Amphitheater
Mon.	7:00	BC Alumni Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tues.	7:00	Food Pantry	Social Hall
Wed.	11-1	Auxiliary Luncheon	Social Hall
	6:30	Stewardship Commission	Gap Room
	7:00	Christian Education Commission	Library
	7:00	Fellowship & Recreation Commission	Youth Room
	7:00	Mission & Service Commission	Lounge
	7:00	Properties Commission	Open Door Room
	7:00	Worship & Music Commission	Seekers Room
Thurs.	7:30	Sanctus Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

NEXT SUNDAY– August 7, 2016 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Pastor Chris Zepp, preaching

Sermon: “Faith Enough”

Scripture Readings: Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16;

Psalm 33:12-22

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m. – Classrooms

Youth Fundraiser Lunch – Noon – Social Hall

Council – 1 p.m. – Social Hall

ATTENDANCE /STEWARDSHIP FOR SUNDAY: 7/24/16

Worship Attendance: 8:30 – 18 11:00 – 246 Sunday School: 120

Pledges & Envelope Giving \$4,245.00

Loose Offering 565.00

Food Pantry 200.00

Alternative Christmas Fair – Purchase 61.59

EYN Compassion Fund 100.00

David Evick Memorial Fund 6,210.00

~ Leon Rhodes, Head Teller

BRIDGEWATER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

*An inclusive family of faith seeking to follow Jesus
and live the love of God.*

Our Mission...

As an inclusive community of faith, we commit ourselves to embody the love of God and to share our diverse lives and gifts with each other and the world. Through faith formation, worship, mission, and fellowship we boldly proclaim the peace and love of Christ. Together we work for justice, extend grace, and partner with God to offer abundant life, healing, and hope to our community and the world.

Our Values...

*Sharing life together and including all persons in our common life.
Growing in faith, compassion, and understanding.
Serving one another and our neighbor's good.
Sharing the love of God and the God that is love.*

PASTORAL MINISTRY STAFF

Jeff Carr – Senior Pastor

Chris Zepp – Associate Pastor

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITIES MINISTRY STAFF

Fortunato Correa – Custodian

Phil Flory – Treasurer

Shannon Puffenbarger – Administrative Assistant

Leon Rhodes – Head Teller

Glenna Wampler – Business Manager

PROGRAM & MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Kathleen Arndt – Child Care Center Administrator

John Barr – Organist

Jim Benedict – Bell Choir Director

Jeanie Eye – Christian Education Director

Mary Beth Flory – Pianist

Marianne Houff – Children's Choir Director

Ellsworth Neff – Sound, Light, Video Coordinator

Curtis Nolley – Sanctus Choir Director & Music Coordinator

Clarke & Hope Staton – Youth Ministry Coordinators

CONTACT INFORMATION

420 College View Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812

www.bwcob.org / (540) 828-3711

Normal office hours are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-Noon, and 1-5 p.m.

SUNDAY MORNING INFORMATION & TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY CENTER in the Greeting Hall

Nametags; large-print Bibles, hymnals, & bulletins; listening receivers; and information are available here.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.

PARKING ASSISTANCE: 10:30-10:55 a.m. every Sunday.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Children are always welcome among us and in our corporate worship gatherings. Activity bags are available in the greeting hall for their use and enjoyment. Additionally, childcare for children ages birth to kindergarten is available as well as a "cry room" for those who wish to listen and see the worship service in a separate room from the sanctuary. Ushers are more than willing to help you locate these resources.

Organist (8:30) – John Barr

Greeters (11:00) – Sonya & Wendell Eller
Dawn Flora, Lauren Flora

Head Usher (11:00) – Kevin Keplinger

Sound/Light (11:00) – Ellsworth Neff

Decorators – Lori Lineweaver & Dwyann Stovall

Deacon Caregivers – Dwyann & Tony Stovall

Van Driver – Rick Wampler

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENDING CAMP SWATARA

July 31-August 5: Shylah Zepp

BRIDGEWATER HOME AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, August 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. – Social Hall

Cost: \$5 (carry-outs available)

Menu: Gourmet Hamburgers, Macaroni Salad, Potato Chips,
Ice Cream Sundaes, Tea or Lemonade

Prepared and served by Bridgewater Office of Edward Jones
to benefit BHA Pledge to Resident Care Endowment Fund.

Light of the World

D A

Light of the World in - to our dark - ness come,

World _____ Light of the

This system shows the first two measures of the hymn. The treble clef staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Bm A D

Light of the World in - to our dark - ness come,

World _____ Light of the

This system shows the next two measures. The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

G

Light of the World in - to our dark - ness come: Let

World _____

This system shows the next two measures. The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

D A G D

Heav - en's will on earth be done.

Light of the

This system shows the final two measures of the hymn. The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

God of the Bible (Fresh as the Morning)

D A/C# G/B D Bm D/F#

1 God of the Bi - ble, God in the Gos - pel, hope seen in Je - sus,
 2 God in our strug - gles, God in our hun - ger, suf - fer - ing with us,
 3 Those with - out sta - tus, those who are noth - ing, you have made roy - al,
 4 Not by your fin - ger, not by your an - ger will our world or - der
 5 Hope we must car - ry, shin - ing and cer - tain through all our tur - moil,

Em A Bm D/A G D

hope yet to come, you are our cen - ter, day - light or dark - ness,
 tak - ing our part, still you em - pow'r us, moth - er - ing Spir - it,
 gift - ed with rights, cho - sen as part - ners, mid - wives of jus - tice,
 change in a day, but by your peo - ple, fear - less and faith - ful,
 ter - ror and loss, bond - ing us glad - ly one to the oth - er,

Em D/F# G Asus A

free - dom or pris - on, you are our home.
 feed - ing, sus - tain - ing, from your own heart.
 birth - ing new sys - tems, light - ing new lights.
 small pa - per lan - terns, light - ing the way.
 till our world chang - es fac - ing the cross.

Words by Shirley Erena Murray © 1996 Hope Publishing Company.
 Music by Tony E. Alonso © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc.

Refrain D A/D G/D D Em D/F#

Soprano (Melody)
 Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise, God al - ways faith - ful,

Alto
 Fresh as the sun - rise, al - ways faith - ful,

Tenor/Bass

Em A D A/D G/D D

you do not change. Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise,
 you do not change. Fresh as the sun - rise,

Em D/F# G/A D A/D

God al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.
 al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.

G/D D A/D G/D D

Continued from front page....

3. Query: Continuing the Study of Our Christian Responsibility to Care for God's Creation

The 2016 Annual Conference adopted Standing Committee's recommendation that a Creation Care study committee be appointed to work, in consultation with Brethren Benefit Trust and other relevant organizations, to develop ways to support and extend our knowledge of renewable energy production with our financial investments and involvement in community projects to reduce our contributions to greenhouse gas concentrations and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. The study committee shall consist of 3 members elected by Standing Committee.

[Note: Standing Committee will elect the study committee through a process to be determined by Nominating Committee.]

4. Query: Living Together as Christ Calls

The 2016 Annual Conference adopted Standing Committee's recommendation that the concern of the query be adopted and be referred to the Mission and Ministry Board.

Unfinished Business Items

1. Vision of Ecumenism for the 21st Century

Action of the 2016 Annual Conference: Annual Conference received an interim report from the committee.

2. Review and Evaluation

Action of the 2016 Annual Conference: Annual Conference received an interim report from the committee.

3. Vitality and Viability

Action of the 2016 Annual Conference: Annual Conference received an interim report from the committee.

**Summary of the Actions
Of the 2016 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference**
(See Official 2016 Minutes when published)

Reports

Reports of (1) the Church of the Brethren, (2) On Earth Peace, (3) Bethany Theological Seminary, (4) Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, (5) the Program and Arrangements Committee, (6) the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, (7) Christian Churches Together in the USA, (8) the World Council of Churches, and (9) the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, along with the financial statements of Church of the Brethren, Inc.; On Earth Peace Assembly, Inc.; Bethany Theological Seminary; and Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, Inc. were received.

New Business Items

1. Query: Same Sex Weddings

The 2016 Annual Conference adopted a motion from the floor to refer the concerns of the query to the Leadership Team in consultation with the Council of District Executives to bring clarity and guidance concerning the authority of Annual Conference and districts regarding the accountability of ministers, congregations, and districts, bringing recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference.

2. Query: On Earth Peace Reportability / Accountability to Annual Conference

5. Query: Viability of On Earth Peace as an Agency of the Church of the Brethren

Recognizing that the Review and Evaluation Committee has the responsibility to consider the balance and unity of denominational agencies, the 2016 Annual Conference adopted Standing Committee's recommendation to refer the "Query: On Earth Peace Reportability / Accountability to Annual Conference" and the "Query: Viability of On Earth Peace as an Agency of the Church of the Brethren" to the Review and Evaluation Committee for their consideration.

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