



Worship Service for January 7, 2024

Prelude	Kevin Guess
Chiming of the Hour	Paula McKnight
Welcome	Pastor Felix Carrión
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix Carrión
Praise & Worship Songs	Congregation

“Your Light Has Come”

Lift your head,

Raise your eyes,

Look around.

Your light has come.

Your light has come.

Light the world,

Heal the earth,

Bear the Christ.

Your light has come.

Your light has come.

Announcements

Paula McKnight

Call to Worship

Paula McKnight

LEADER: Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to peace and wholeness.

ALL: Divine Light, fill this sacred sanctuary with your liberating truth.

LEADER: Light of God, illumine the way of wonder and awe.

ALL: Divine Light, dispel the darkness in our world and bring us to a new understanding of the spiritual unity of all people and all creation.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #177 "God of Change and Glory"

vs. 1 & 3

God of change and glory,
God of time and space,
when we fear the future,
give to us your grace.

In the midst of changing ways
give us still the grace to praise.

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love
known in many ways.

In our difference is blessing,
from diversity we praise one Giver,
one Word, one Spirit, one God
known in many ways,
hallowing our days,
For the Giver, for the gifts,
praise, praise, praise!

Freshness of the morning,
newness of each night,
you are still creating
endless love and light.

This we see, as shadows part,
many gifts from one great heart.

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love
known in many ways.

In our difference is blessing,
from diversity we praise one Giver,
one Word, one Spirit, one God
known in many ways,
hallowing our days,
For the Giver, for the gifts,
praise, praise, praise!

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

**ALL: O God, we give thanks for your unfailing
faithfulness. We celebrate that the mystery of our life is
wrapped in divine love that has no end. We are in awe
when we ponder the order and constancy of nature; the
beauty and bounty of the earth; the light of day and the
darkness of night; and the varied gifts of the seasons.
We gather in your love to be one spiritual family walking
together in faith.**

Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Paula McKnight

Alzheimer's Association – Houston & Southeast Texas

Offertory Music

Kevin Guess

***Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God for all that Love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit one Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Paula McKnight

ALL: Holy One, accept and bless our offerings this day. Grant that we might live generously, as we serve to be a blessing to our world. May we be faithful in all things.

Amen.

Biblical Witness

Paula McKnight

Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the

Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Contemporary Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

Manifesting Change: It Couldn't Be Easier

by Mike Dooley

I share with you what I believe is the number one thing that keeps people from living their dreams: misunderstanding the nature of reality. Second to that would be not taking action. And third, is that so few people actually take into account their own extraordinary uniqueness when choosing the paths that lie ahead of them, ignoring their own drummer. This third reason is what opening the floodgates is about: having the courage to follow your heart and to be yourself.

Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

“Epiphany, Epiphanies”

Special Music**Video****“Seekers of Light”**

Hope of the world, Light everlasting, Jesus the brightest and best,

Son of the Dawn, You are our Vision, You are the Heart of our quest.

Drawn by the Flame, led by a star, You are our Lamp in the night.

Eyes full of hope, warmed by a Promise, We are the Seekers of Light.

Joy of the world, Glory of heaven, Beacon of hope burning bright,

Spark of true love, Fire of creation, draw us to live in Your light.

Lord of our lives, lead through the darkness, Let us burn bright for Your name.

Shine through us, Lord. Make us Your candle. . Consume us now with Your flame.

We are the seekers of Light.

We are the seekers of Light.

Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns

Pastor Felix Carrión

Jesus' Prayer

Congregation

The New Zealand Book of Prayer

**ALL: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer,
Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is
heaven: The hallowing of your name echoes through
the universe! The way of your justice be followed by
the peoples of the world!**

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustains our hope and comes on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Communion Prayer and The Words of Institution

Pastor Felix Carrión

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Congregation

ALL: O God, we have come to this table with honest longing. You fed us, and for this we give thanks. We rise from this table with new strength to care for each other with an embracing love. Amen.

Hymn*Congregation****TNCH #442 "I'm Pressing on the Upward Way
(Higher Ground)" vs. 1 & 2**

I'm pressing on the upward way,
new heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"O Plant me, God, on higher ground."

O lift me up, and I shall be by faith
in heaven eternally,
A higher plane than I have found,
O, plant me, God on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay where
doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
my prayer, my aim is higher ground.

O lift me up, and I shall be by faith
in heaven eternally,

A higher plane than I have found,
O, plant me, God on higher ground.

Benediction

Pastor Felix Carrión

Song of Parting

Congregation

Sing! #205 "Dance Into Joy" vs. 1

So dance into joy with hands upraised.
Greet each new day as the holiest of days,
and to your God sing great songs of praise,
To your God sing praise!

Share from your path some strand of light
Bring all the shades both dark and light,
Weaving together makes us all one.
Stories of hope have just begun.

So dance into joy with hands upraised.
Greet each new day as the holiest of days,
and to your God sing great songs of praise,
To your God sing praise!

Postlude

Kevin Guess

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Paula McKnight

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Amie and Shelby-Mak Friday

Sound: Mary Davis

Pastor Felix Carrión

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