



## **Worship Service for January 4, 2026**

<b>Prelude</b>	Marshall Davies
<b>Chiming of the Hour</b>	Margaret Stone
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Centering Moment</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Praise &amp; Worship Songs</b>	Congregation
<i>TNCH #459 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"</i>	

Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,

come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,  
Came to rescue me from danger,  
blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for your very own.

**Announcements**

Margaret Stone

## Call to Worship

Margaret Stone

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

**ALL: Divine Light, fill our lives with your truth and  
inspiration.**

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

**ALL: Divine Light, bring us to a new understanding  
of the unity of all creation.**

## \*Hymn

Congregation

*TNCH #154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens

there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hill and everywhere.  
Go tell the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hill and everywhere.  
Go tell the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born!

## **Gathering Prayer**

Congregation

**ALL: O God, we give thanks for the revelation we perceive in the birth and life of Jesus. In Jesus, we behold unfailing faithfulness. This morning, we celebrate that the mystery of our life is wrapped in divine love and light. We are in awe when we ponder your mysteries, nature's order and constancy, the earth's beauty and bounty, 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 throughout this New Year.**

**Amen.**

**Invitation to Offering**

Margaret Stone

Alzheimer's Association – Houston & Southeast Texas

**Offertory Music**

Marshall Davies

**\*Doxology**

Congregation

**ALL: 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**

Margaret Stone

**ALL: Holy One, accept and bless our offerings this**

**day. Grant that we might live generously, as we**

**seek to be a blessing to our world. May we be**

**faithful in all things and at all times!**

**Amen.**

**Biblical Witness**

Pastor Felix Carrión

*Matthew 2:1-6*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

## Contemporary Witness

Margaret Stone

*An Instrument of Your Peace:  
A Tribute to the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi  
Poems by Helen Steiner  
Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



## Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

*"Illumination"*

## Special Music

Plymouth Choir

*"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.

**Invitation and Communion Prayer**      Pastor Felix Carrión

PASTOR: Welcome, friends, to this holy sharing.

**ALL: Welcome to offer love.**

PASTOR: Welcome to this time set apart.

**ALL: A time to remember the holy promises of God.**

PASTOR: Welcome to this table of remembrance and joy.

**ALL: The table where we are fed, the feast we share  
with many.**

**Communion Prayer**

**Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup**

**Sharing the Elements**

*\*all elements are gluten free*

**Communion Music**

Plymouth Choir

*TNCH #330 "Let Us Break Bread Together"***Jesus' Prayer**

Congregation

(taken from 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.**

**\*Congregational Song**

Congregation

*Sing! #196 "Let It Shine" vs. 1 & 3*

Let it shine, let it shine,  
The light of the world that shows the way;  
Let it shine, let it shine,  
And show us peace today.

The church bears witness to God's grace,  
Its mission crystal clear:  
to show the world God's human face,  
a world that God holds dear.

Let it shine, let it shine,  
The light of the world that shows the way;  
Let it shine, let it shine,  
And show us peace today.

Now let us give ourselves to God  
Within this war-torn world,  
And work till justice walks abroad

With flags of peace unfurled.

Let it shine, let it shine,  
The light of the world that shows the way;  
Let it shine, let it shine,  
And show us peace today.

**Benediction**

Pastor Felix Carrión

**Song of Parting**

Congregation

*TNCH #236 “Halleluja”*

Halle, halle, halle - luja  
Halle, halle, halle - luja.  
Halle, halle, halle - luja.  
Halleluja, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halle - luja  
Halle, halle, halle - luja.  
Halle, halle, halle - luja.  
Halleluja, halleluja.

## Postlude

Marshall Davies

### **Today's Worship Participants**

Worship Leader: *Margaret Stone*

Video: *Mark Vines*

Projector: *Scott Edmonds*

Sound: *Cii-jayy Jones*

YouTube Host: *Mary Lowell*

**Pastor Felix Carrión**

**Designated Pastor**

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