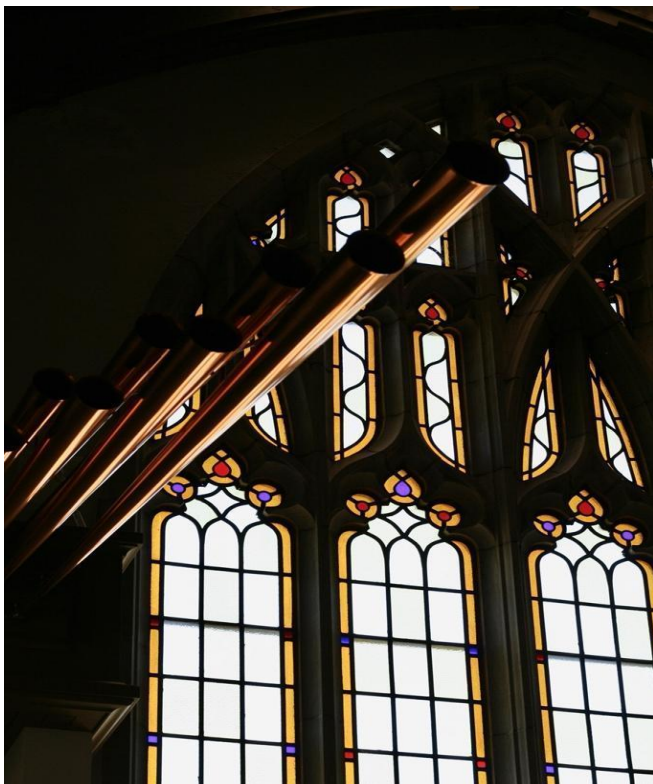


January 22, 2023 7pm

## Night Church

"Yours is the day, yours also the night."  
Psalm 74:16



Loving God. Loving People.  
Growing in Christ Together.

*Leading:* The Rev. Brian Suggs

Welcome

The Greeting:

*Leader:* Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
**a light no darkness can quench.**

*A candle is lit.*

*Leader:* Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening:  
*All:* **and the day is almost over.**

*Leader:* Even the darkness is not dark for you:  
*All:* **and the night shines like the day.**

*Leader:* Let your light scatter the darkness:  
*All:* **and fill your church with your glory.**

Opening Prayer:

*Leader:* Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.  
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in  
truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*All:* **Amen.**

Song of Praise:  
**How Great Is Our God**  
*Chris Tomlin*

**Verse 1:**  
The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at his voice, trembles at his voice

**Chorus:**

How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, all will see  
How great, how great is our God

**Verse 2:**

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands  
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end  
The Godhead, three in one: Father, Spirit, Son  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb

**Chorus****Bridge:**

Name above all names  
Worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing  
How great is our God

**Chorus**

Bible Reading:  
**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we

proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

Bible Reading:  
**Matthew 5:1-12**

A reading from Matthew's gospel.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed

are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

*Reader:* This is the Gospel of Christ.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Talk:  
*Naomi Suggs*

Response to God's Word:

*After hearing the scriptures read and hearing more about them during 'the talk', we respond with our beliefs about who God is.*

Let us declare our faith in God.

*All:* **I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

Song of Praise:  
**King of My Heart**  
*Bethel*

**Verse 1:**

Let the King of my heart  
Be the mountain where I run  
The fountain I drink from  
Oh, He is my song

**Verse 2:**

Let the King of my heart  
Be the shadow where I hide  
The ransom for my life  
Oh, He is my song

**Chorus:**

'Cause You are good  
You are good, oh oh  
You are good  
You are good, oh oh

You are good  
You are good, oh oh  
You are good  
You are good, oh oh

**Verse 3:**

And let the King of my heart  
Be the wind inside my sails  
The anchor in the waves  
Oh oh, He is my song

**Verse 4:**

Let the King of my heart  
Be the fire inside my veins  
The echo of my days  
Oh oh, He is my song

**Chorus**

**Bridge:**

You're never gonna let  
You're never gonna let me down  
And You're never gonna let  
You're never gonna let me down

**Prayer:**

*This is a time to bring those people and things that are on our hearts and minds to God. Intercessions (prayers said for others) are offered and we end by saying the prayer that Jesus taught us, The Lord's Prayer.*

Watchful at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before God our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations  
his sceptre of righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures  
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,  
restore the sick  
and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn  
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
as your blessed Son Jesus Christ  
first came to seek and to save the lost;  
so may he come again to find in us  
the completion of his redeeming work;  
for he is now alive  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Leader:* Jesus taught us to call God our Father,  
so in faith and trust we pray:



**All:**           **Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory, are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

*During confession we all say sorry to God and ask for forgiveness for the wrong things (called sin) we've done and for the things we've thought in our minds that aren't pleasing to God. We also say sorry and ask forgiveness for the things we haven't done but should have done. We don't always mean to do wrong (sin), but we do. We all need God's forgiveness, so we ask for it. God has promised to always forgive us and never to remember our sin again.*

**Leader:**       We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

**All:**           **God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong that we have  
thought and said and done,  
and are mindful of all that we have failed to  
do. For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us for all that is past,  
and help us to live each day  
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution:

*The priest now confirms God's forgiveness of us all.*

*Leader:* May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Song of Praise:  
**Heart of Worship**  
*Matt Redman*

**Verse 1:**  
When the music fades  
All is stripped away  
And I simply come

**Verse 2:**  
Longing just to bring  
Something that's of worth  
That will bless your heart

**Pre-Chorus:**  
I'll bring you more than a song  
For a song in itself  
Is not what you have required  
You search much deeper within  
Through the way things appear  
You're looking into my heart

**Chorus:**

I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about you  
It's all about you, Jesus  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about you  
It's all about you, Jesus

**Verse 3:**

King of endless worth  
No one could express  
How much you deserve

**Verse 4:**

Though I'm weak and poor  
All I have is yours  
Every single breath

**Pre-Chorus:**

I'll bring you more than a song  
For a song in itself  
Is not what you have required  
You search much deeper within  
Through the way things appear  
You're looking into my heart

**Bridge:**

I'll bring you more than a song  
I'll bring you more than a song  
More than a song  
You looking into my heart  
Looking into my heart

Closing Prayer:

***All:* Keep us, Father, in this community of faith,  
the Church of your Son Jesus Christ,  
and help us to confess him as Messiah and Lord  
in all we say and do.  
We ask this in his name.  
Amen.**

Blessing (sung):

***All:* Go now in peace; go now in peace.  
May the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

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