



September 24, 2023 – Livestream
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Wallace

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

arr. R. G. te Velde

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen to the Beloved!

People: Christ, the true and only light.

Leader: Listen to the Beloved!

**People: Sun of Righteousness,
Dayspring from on high.**

Leader: Listen to the Beloved!

**People: Radiance Divine,
shine in our hearts and show us the way.**

*OPENING HYMN #173

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

***Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.***

***Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.***

***Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.***

OPENING PRAYER

**Lord Jesus, you are the light of life for all
who exposes deceptions and overcomes evil.**

**May we receive your wisdom
and reflect your ways in all we do and say
for the glory of God and the wellbeing of the world. Amen.**

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts, Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,
Eternal Power, be our support, Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our
ignorance, Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 27:1-6

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

**People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

**People: Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.**

Leader: One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:

**People: to live in the house of the Sovereign One
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of God,
and to inquire in the Lord's temple.**

Leader: For God will hide me in the divine shelter
in the day of trouble;

**People: God will conceal me under the cover of the Lord's tent;
and will set me high upon a rock.**

Leader: Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,

**People: and I will offer in the tent of God
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lela Russell

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1, 19-20

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

¹⁹ The sun shall no longer be
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give light to you by night,
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

²⁰ Your sun shall no more go down
or your moon withdraw itself,

for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #451

Be Thou My Vision

***Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.***

***Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.***

***Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joy, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy Sell

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2064

O Lord, You're Beautiful

***O Lord, you're beautiful, your face is all I seek;
and when your eyes are on this child, your grace abounds to me.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Thou the Central Orb

C. Wood
Cathedral Singers

O Thou the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the most High,
eternal Light of this our wintry world,
Thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine, gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.
Thy saints with holy luster round Thee move, as stars about Thy throne,
set in the height of God's ordaining counsel,
as Thy sight gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with Thee,
transforming day to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY #94

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:4-8; 8:12

^{1:4}In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

^{8:12}Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Imagining God, Part II: God the Light

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #2008

Let All Things Now Living

***Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
God's banners fly o'er us; God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.***

***The law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest hosanna and praise!***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Christ Is the World's Light

arr. D. Blackwell

The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and in celebration and thanksgiving for the upcoming 90th birthday of the Rev. Robert A. Schilling by his family.

The white carnation on the altar is in celebration of the life of Jane Llewellyn who passed away on September 19th.

This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*
Sunil Kotian, *Pastor of Mission & Outreach*
Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*
Brandon Wallace, *Minister of Youth & Young Adults*
Lela Russell, *Liturgist*
John Hague, James Horton and Allen McCormack, *Audio Visual*
Mark Gilgallon, *Music Director*
Heather Hinton, *Organist*

Upcoming Events

Fall Festival and Hymn Sing, Today, 5:30-7:30pm

Young Adult Dinner, September 26, 6:30pm
The Garage Food Hall at Bottleworks

Lydia Circle, September 26, 7pm at Galloways

Genesis 1-11 Bible Study with Pastor Darren
Wednesdays, September 27-October 25

Miriam Circle, September 28, 12:30pm in Library

"The Bad Guys" Movie and Pizza Night, October 6, 5:30-8pm

Exploring North (for perspective members), Sundays October 8, 15,
22, 9:45am, Conference Room and via ZOOM
Sign up by emailing events@northchurchindy.com

Blessing of the Animals, October 8

Fall Youth Retreat, Pine Creek Camp, October 20-22

Trunk-or-Treat, October 29, 4-6pm

