

Jesus invites you to claim the light as your nature and your truth. Together with those around you, receive the invitation to live in the light.

Others come into your presence. Pass on and share the light with them one by one, igniting a flame, on that continues to pierce the darkness and brings new life to all.

Watch as Jesus withdraws, knowing that we hold the light of life. Together we can extend this light to the ends of the earth.

Silent Reflection

Song: *“Christ, Be Our Light”*

Let us Pray

God of Light we give thanks that you have asked us to be bearers of your Light . . . Sparks of your very self, illuminating the world and making love tangible.

Forgive the ways in which we try to evade being who we are, for the times we resist your invitation out of false humility or fear.

As we become flames of your love, may we recognize that we are not separate from you, but are participants in your divine mystery.

This day may we be conscious of bringing light everywhere we go, building up a field of love that will transform the world.

Amen.

Prayer Service – The Story of Our Universe

Opening Prayer:

Creator God and Lord of Love and Light, we come before You and before one another to listen with deep reverence and with open minds and hearts to our sacred story—the story of the growth and destiny of our universe.

As this story unfolds and as we see our interconnectedness, may its message call forth from us a loving response. May we take it in and live it out in all its implications, intertwining it with our own story and with the story of Jesus.

Let us nurture the most significant relationship we have — our relationship with our creator God and with all of life. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Song: *“In the Name of All That Is”*

Reflection 1

Thomas Berry says, “To tell the story of anything, you have to tell the story of everything.”

Three billion years ago, a simple primitive cell mutated and began to capture light from the sun in a process we call photosynthesis. This process involved a relationship among components upon which virtually all life now depends. Tiny chlorophyll molecules were able to capture solar energy in the form of light and convert it into food

and oxygen, thus creating an intimate bond between sun and earth.

Silent Reflection

Question: What resulted from this relationship?
Discuss and share with one other person.

Refrain:

We come to tell our story,
We come to sing our song.
We come to know our own place
To know where we belong.

Reflection 2

As we reflect on photosynthesis we can see how, just like the sunlight, God's grace has always been radiating towards earth. Jesus was the one who was able to absorb to the fullness that gracious radiance of God in a way that transformed all life.

Like the sun which pours out her own life to nourish and support life on earth, Jesus pours out His life to nourish and support us. The nature of this outpouring is **Love** — a love knows no bounds and has no limits.

Silent Reflection

Question How do you see the sunlight and God's love connected, and what are the results?

Refrain:

We come to tell our story,
We come to sing our song.
We come to know our own place
To know where we belong.

Statement of Belief

I believe that the theory of evolution merely offers "how" we have come so

far. Only Mystery can provide a "why" and point us towards our purpose and meaning.

I believe that this is one of earth's finest moments. That sun lifting yellows and greens into the life of tiny poplar leaves is like God's all embracing Spirit of love, lifting life into us.

I recognize that we are the universe conscious of itself, and as humankind we are called to know and to make choices on behalf of the whole.

I acknowledge that the evolving universe story allows us to glimpse a profound mystery, one that reverberates back to the ancient mystics who lived in awe at the Power that gave birth to all creation.

I believe that God has made us all part of a magnificent whole that consists of a vast web of relationships and connections. We are an organic and cosmic body that evokes pure wonder and has drawn us into Mystery, the mystery of the Body of Christ.

Reflection 3

We sit now in stillness together. In these contemplative moments, we become aware of the power of God as Light, Life, Creator and Divine Energy. Let us image God's Light surrounding us and within us as we begin this Guided Meditation.

Imagine Jesus here with us. He is filled with light. See the light radiate out from Him and watch as it touches his disciples and friends, the sick and the suffering, the lonely and those who are afraid
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As it touches each person, notice that they too become filled with light.

Now His light touches you, and you feel new life. The light in your heart is rekindled. Anxieties slip away and you feel transformed, whole.

Transformation has happened in the ones around you. You see them becoming whole.