

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

**Christmas Eve**  
2016

tonight's service was prepared and led  
by Meghan Knight

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

**Gathering Music**  
Ethan Li

on the hulusi (葫芦丝)  
a free reed wind instrument  
from China.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

**Prelude**  
"Oh Holy Night"  
sung by Lydia Eze and Julian Ross

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

**Welcome**  
time of preparation

Meghan Knight

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

**O come,  
all ye faithful**

Hymnal #212  
verses 1 & 2  
words & music by John F. Wade  
1743

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

1.  
O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come & behold Him, born the king of angels  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

2.  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

**John 1:1-5**  
Lighting the Christ Candle

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

**O come, O come,  
Immanuel**

Hymnal 172  
verses 1 & 6  
words from the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> century  
translated by John M Neale (verses 1-4), 1851  
and Henry Sloan Coffin (verses 5-6), 1916  
music from the 15<sup>th</sup> century

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John 1:9

O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:*  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John 1:9

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease.  
Fill the whole world  
with heaven's peace.

*Refrain:*  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John 1:9

## Call to Worship

### Psalm 97

from the *New Revised Standard Version* bible,  
copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the  
National Council of the Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John 1:9

*One Voice:*  
The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!

*A Second Voice:*  
Clouds and thick darkness are all around  
him; righteousness and justice are the  
foundation of his throne.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John 1:9

*Congregation:*  
Fire goes before him, and  
consumes his adversaries on every side.  
His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.

*One Voice:*  
The mountains melt like wax before the  
Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John 1:9

*A Second Voice:*  
The heavens proclaim his righteousness;  
and all the peoples behold his glory.

*Congregation:*  
All worshipers of images are put to shame,  
those who make their boast in worthless  
idols; all gods bow down before him.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John 1:9

*One Voice:*  
Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of  
Judah rejoice, because of your  
judgements, O God.

*A Second Voice:*  
For you, O Lord, are most high over all the  
earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John 1:9

*Congregation:*  
The Lord loves those who hate evil; he  
guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues  
them from the hand of the wicked. Light  
dawns for the righteous, and joy for the  
upright in heart.

*Everyone:*  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and  
give thanks to his holy name!

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* John 1:9


## Come, thou long- expected Jesus!

Hymnal #178  
words by Charles Wesley, 1744  
music by Rowland H. Pritchard, 1844

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

1


Come, thou long-expected Jesus!  
born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

2

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit,  
rule in all our hearts alone.  
By thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

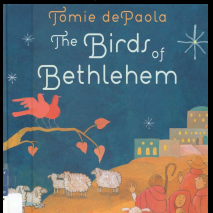
Opening Prayer



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

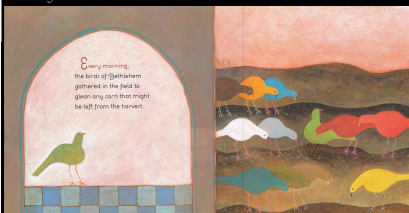
Tómie dePaola  
*The Birds of Bethlehem*

All children are invited up front



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

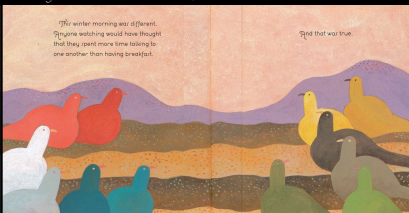
Every morning, the birds of Bethlehem gathered in the field to glean any corn that might be left from the harvest.



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

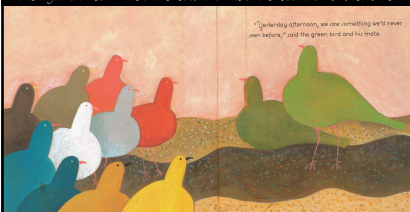
The winter morning was different. Spymon watching would have thought that they spent more time talking to one another than eating or nesting.

Spid that was true.



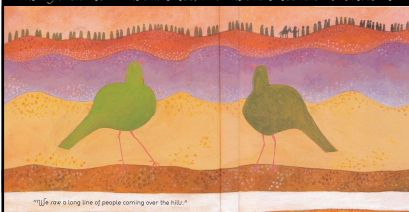
*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

"Yesterday afternoon, we saw something we'd never seen before," said the green bird and his mate.



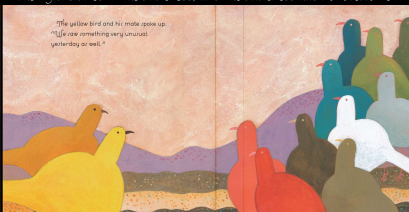
*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

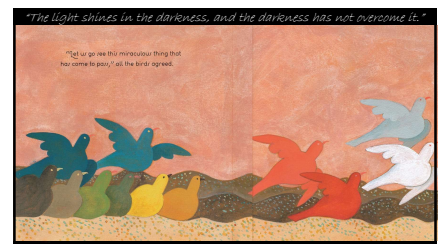
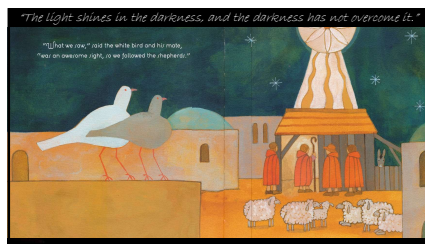
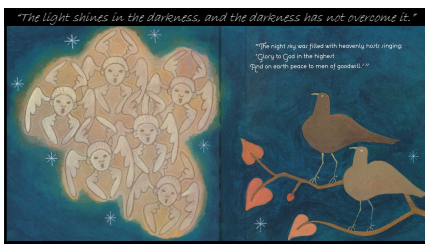
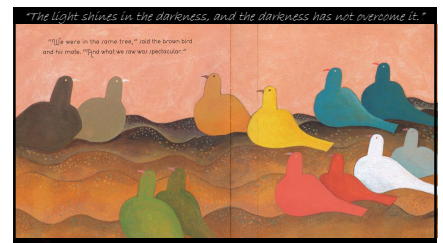
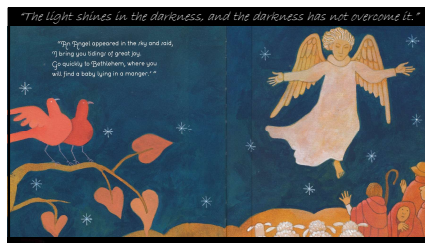
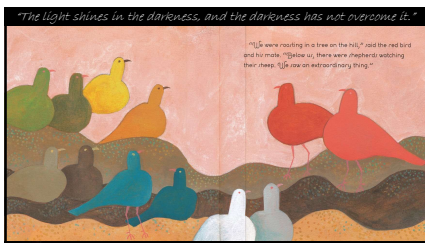
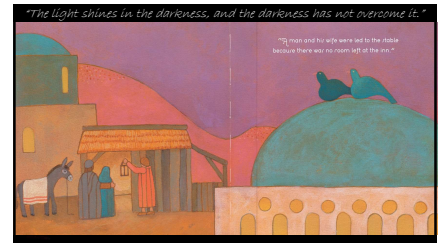
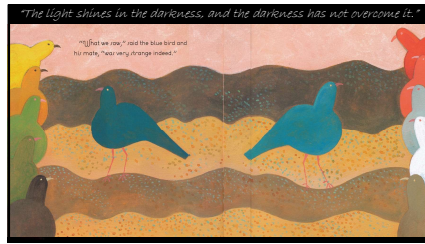
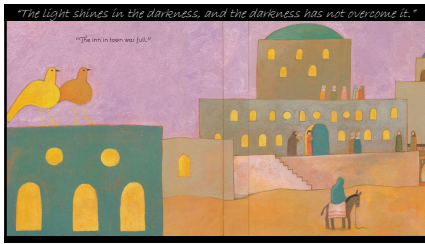
"We saw a long line of people coming over the hill."

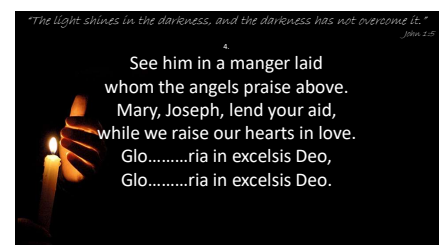
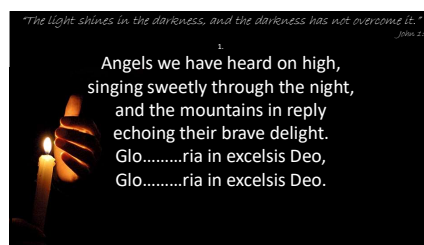
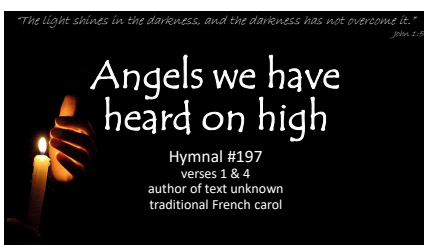
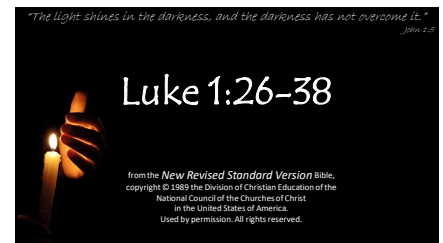
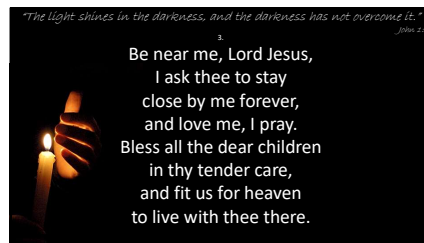
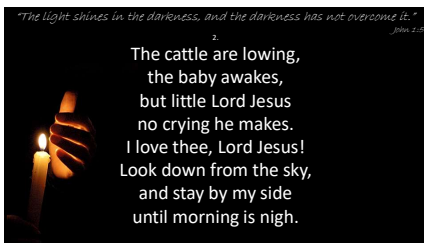
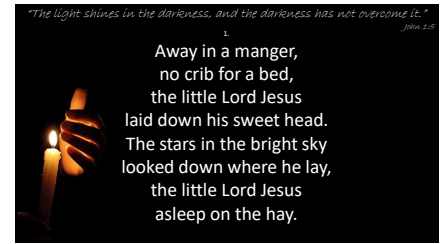
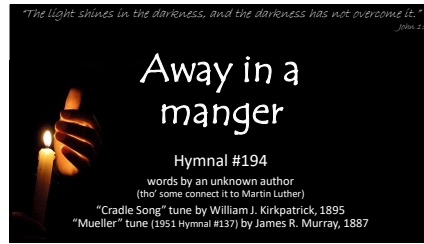
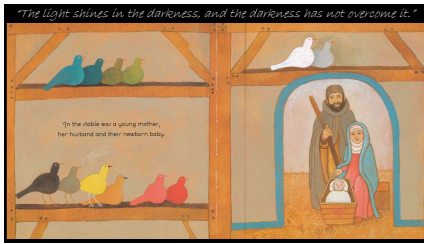


*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

The yellow bird and his mate peeped up. "We saw something very unusual yesterday as well."







"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:9

Luke 1:46-55

from the *New Revised Standard Version* Bible,  
copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the  
National Council of the Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:9

Special Music  
"Breath of Heaven"  
by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton  
©1992 Christian Music Co. (Adapted by Greg Shinn, 1983)  
Age To Age Music, Inc. (Adapted by The Living Company)  
Reformation Music, Inc. (Adapted by The Living Company)

sung by Beth Kagaise and Meghan Knight  
signed by Karen Gonzalez

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:9

"  
st  
night  
signed by Karen Gonzalez

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:9

Matthew 1:18-25

from the *New International Reader's Version*.  
Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™  
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:9

What child is this

Hymn #215  
verses 1 & 2  
words by William C. Dix, 1865  
traditional English melody

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:9

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping, whom  
angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard & angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:9

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:9

Luke 2:1-20

from the *Laughing Bird* version  
an Australian paraphrase  
©2001 Nathan Nettleton, LaughingBird.net

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:9


O little town  
of Bethlehem

Hymnal #191  
verses 1 & 3  
words by Phillips Brooks, 1874  
music by Lewis H. Redner, 1874

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

1.


O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by,  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

3.


How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of the heavens.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still  
the dear Christ enters in.



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

## Matthew 2:1-12


from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*,  
copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the  
National Council of the Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

## We three Kings

Brethren Hymnal #141  
verses 1 & 5  
words & music by John H. Hopkins



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

1.


We three Kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field & fountain, moor & mountain  
following yon- der star.  
O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

5.

Glorious new behold him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Sounds thru the earth and skies.  
O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

## Invitation to give

written by Eric Landram  
for the Church of the Brethren  
Advent Offering, 2016  
adapted by Meghan Knight




*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

## "The Little Drummer"


(aka "Carol of the Drum")

words and music by  
Katherine Kennicott Davis, 1941



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

Come they told me, **pa rum pum pum pum**  
A new born King to see, **pa rum pum pum pum**  
Our finest gifts we bring, **pa rum pum pum pum**  
To lay before the King,  
**pa rum pum pum pum,**  
**rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum**  
So to honor Him, **pa rum pum pum pum**  
When we come.



*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

Little Baby, pa rum pum pum pum  
I am a poor boy/girl too, pa rum pum pum pum  
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum  
That's fit to give the King,  
pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum  
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum  
On my drum?

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum  
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my drum for Him, pa rum pum pum pum  
I played my best for Him,  
pa rum pum pum pum,  
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum  
Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum  
Me and my drum.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

## Prayer of Dedication

written by Eric Landram  
for the Church of the Brethren  
Advent Offering, 2016

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

## Candle lighting

an invitation

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

## Silent Night

Hymnal #193  
words by Joseph Mohr, 1818  
translated by John F. Young, 1863  
music by Franz Gruber, 1818

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

1.

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

2.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from the heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

3.

Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King  
Christ the Savior is here,  
Jesus the Savior is here!

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

4.

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.




*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9



# Prayer


*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9



# Joy to the world


Hymnal #318  
verses 1 & 4  
words by Isaac Watts, 1719 altered  
music from Handel,  
by Lowell Mason, 1836

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9




Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9



4  
He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.


*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9



# Benediction

©2000 Bruce D. Prewer adapted  
Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9



# Postlude

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*  
John 1:9

