

## "Light Bearers"

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) NRSV

We live in a world of fear, uncertainty, and dark times. The Christmas message is a

call to see what has not yet been revealed beyond the darkness of these days. It is an opportunity to see the wonder of the Light of Jesus the Messiah, born in the City of David, as good news of great joy shared for all people: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will toward those whom he favors." (Luke 2:14) NRSV

Light cannot be tucked away or put under a bushel. Just as John was sent to bear witness of the Light, we are being sent to bear witness of the light that lives in us. Regional Ministry knits the church together by equipping leaders, encouraging congregations, and building relationships. The Christmas Offering supports the ministry of the Great River Region.

Bearing witness of this light requires commitment and sacrifice. It is a re-affirmation of the call and willingness to surrender our lives in service to others; it is an active and engaging response with our time, talent, and resources. As Light Bearers, our hearts reflect the glory of the light at Christmas and beyond.

When our faith wanes, and we wonder if the Church is still relevant, we challenge light bearers to approach Christmas with a resounding "Yes." "Yes" to unconditional love, "Yes" to mission and ministry, and "Yes" to bear witness to "that light" shining in dark corners of the world.



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