

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”
John 8:12b, NRSV

Call to Worship

Leader: We must study to show ourselves approved so that we will not be embarrassed and will know the truth.

People: We come today, asking God to empower us to embrace learning and appreciate the truth.

Leader: God’s word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths.

People: Let us open our minds to receive God’s word, prepare our hearts to embrace God’s Spirit and ready ourselves to practice God’s ways.

Litany

Leader: From the darkness, God called forth light and saw that the light was good.

People: The world needs an eternal light that no one can extinguish.

Leader: That light is Christ; may we receive him now.

People: The darkness of sin, the obscurity of ignorance and the horror of crime and terrorism sometimes seem to overtake the light.

Leader: We must educate so we can teach others. Our knowledge and faith work together to guide us to the saving truth. That truth offers a peace that surpasses understanding.

Together: Holy Spirit, help us to practice what we teach so that our lights will keep burning in this dark world. Then we can educate, encourage and draw others to the light of life. Amen.

Prayer

Gracious God, help us to be better students of your word. Teach us your ways. Your son Jesus is the light of the world. Darkness will never overcome that light. May we courageously shine our lights for Christ in contrast to the darkness of this world. Help us to show others the way to truth and illuminate their hearts by sharing our knowledge and our faith. Amen.

Suggested Hymns

- “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past,” *UMH* 117
- “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light,” *UMH* 206
- “Pass It On,” *UMH* 572
- “This Little Light of Mine,” *UMH* 585
- “Thy Word Is a Lamp,” *UMH* 601
- “Rise to Greet the Sun,” *UMH* 678
- “God of the Ages,” *UMH* 698

Suggested Scriptures (Revised Common Lectionary)

- Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44
- Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
- Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Benediction

Send us forth, O God, as lights to this world. Like candles on a hill that no one can hide, we have a presence in this world, although we are citizens of your kingdom. May your love protect us, your word instruct us and your Spirit lead us. Amen.

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