

January 19, 2021

*"Arise, Shine; for your light has come, and the glory the Lord has risen upon you"*  
*Isaiah 60:1*

Dear Trinity family,

The times were incredibly hard, and the future looked grim. The exiles were returning to Jerusalem after suffering for 50+ plus years, 1700 miles away in Babylon. They discovered the city in ruins. The Temple of the Lord was reduced to rubble, their former pastures were now a wilderness and the city's inhabitants were hostile. They had their work cut out for them!

But the word of the Lord came to those exiles through Isaiah, *"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."* This message told those exiles that God was with them, had a purpose and plan for them, and would strengthen them for the tough work ahead. It told them that God would strengthen them for the tough work ahead.

A rather appropriate metaphor for 2021 in the wake of 2020, don't you think? This is why we have chosen *Arise, Shine* as the theme of our 2021 Stewardship campaign. Just like the exiles, we need a message of **Hope**; a message of **Vision**; a message of **Action**.

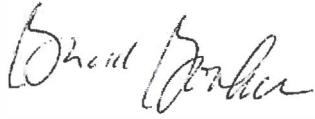
Trinity, all during the pandemic, in circumstances no one could even imagine, you have remained so faithful. Your financial support has allowed the critical work of the church and our outreach to the community to continue uninterrupted and in some cases actually increased. Thank you! Thank you for your faith in Jesus Christ! Thank you for your faithfulness in the cause of Christ and Christ's Church!

Our message to you is one of appreciation and a request that you continue this faithfulness in the coming year. In 2021 we will be like those returning exiles. When in-person worship resumes it will be like coming home. But we know that we will have so much work to do. The needs in the community will not have lessened but rather will have dramatically increased. The need for Jesus Christ will be urgent. Our message of good news must be proclaimed. The work of the church is more important now than ever.

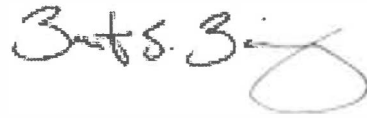
**Sunday, February 14** is Promise Sunday. On this date, we will ask you to indicate your financial support for Trinity for our next fiscal year (July 2021 through June 2022). Your support is critical to our church and our mission. By participating in this campaign, you help us to be better stewards through budget and planning.

We ask you to start praying now about how God wants to use you and how your tithe or offering can empower Trinity's ministry. It's time to rise and shine, for your light has come. Truly the glory of the Lord is rising upon us.

In Christ,



Brad Booker, co-chair  
2021 Stewardship Campaign



Brent Belding, co-chair 2021  
Stewardship Campaign



**TRINITY**  
United Methodist Church

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