


# INTO THE DARKNESS

Toward the Light

The Turning of the Year

WORSHIP KIT

**Creative  
Communications  
Sample**



# INTO THE Toward the Light

The Turning of the Year

Worship Kit

# INTO THE DARKNESS

## Toward the Light

### The Turning of the Year

#### Index

Notes/Ordering Information.....	5
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices.....	6
Order of Service.....	7-10
Complete Script For Worship Leaders.....	11-18
Scripture Readings.....	19-20
Children's Message.....	21-22
Homily.....	23-24
Prayers.....	25-26
Music Guide.....	27-38

# INTO THE DARKNESS

## Toward the Light

### The Turning of the Year

#### Notes and Ordering Information

Christian hope, especially in uncertain times, is cause for celebration! This unique service for the turning of the year celebrates our promised future in heaven's light, which gives us both courage and mission in this dark world. Hymns include "Abide With Me," "God Who Made the Earth and Heaven" and "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." Readings from Isaiah 35, 1 Thessalonians 5 and John 7 emphasize hope and trust in God's presence.

*Printed bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code LL9A*

*Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 11") are available. Code LL9B*

*Blank bulletins (8 1/2" x 14") are available. Code LL9C*

*Call Creative Communications for the Parish at*

*1-800-325-9414 for current prices and availability.*

*Or visit us online at [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com)*

# INTO THE DARKNESS

## Toward the Light

The Turning of the Year

Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Newsletter Notice

Join us for a service celebrating the turning of the year. In this dark world, we turn toward the Light of Christ as we turn the page on a new calendar year. This service helps us to see through Bible readings, hymns and the spoken word that the Light of Christ will carry us through whatever we may encounter in the new year, just as he has in years past.

Bulletin Notice

Welcome to this service of light and darkness and we usher in a new year. We celebrate in this service the Light of Christ that will carry us through the darkness of this world in the coming year just as he has bought light to our path in years past. We join together in word and song and Scripture to welcome in the year to come and celebrate the One who will guide us through it.

# INTO THE DARKNESS

## Toward the Light

### The Turning of the Year

#### Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/isolate-burning-candle-on-dark-background-241193542?src=9zcvf7g8ikOLS59gQpCaRQ-1-17>

- **Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow** is sung by the congregation to the tune Hyfrydol 87 87 D, followed by words spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

Through the night of doubt and sorrow onward goes the pilgrim band,  
Singing songs of expectation, marching to the promised land.  
Clear before us through the darkness gleams and burns the guiding light;  
Pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim stepping fearless through the night.

**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C** Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them the light has shined.

**P** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**C The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

P If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

**C and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**

P You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

One the light of God's own presence on his ransomed people shed,  
Chasing far the gloom and error, bright'ning all the path we tread.  
One the object of our journey, one the faith which never tires,  
One the earnest looking forward, one the hope our God inspires.

P Send out your light and your truth, O God; let them lead me. Let them bring me to your holy dwelling.

**C The God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

**C Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.**

One the strain that lips of thousands lift as from the heart of one;  
One the conflict, one the peril, one the march in God begun.  
One the gladness of rejoicing on the far eternal shore,  
Where the one almighty Father reigns in love forevermore.

P Eternal Father, as you have placed us in a world of space and time, your Son has joined us in this life and made known to us your love. Be present to lead us into the new year. Let your word be a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, until by your grace we join you there where there is no need for sun or moon to shine, for your glory is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb, Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday and today and forever. Amen.

Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers; onward, with the cross our aid.  
Bear its shame and fight its battle till we rest beneath its shade.  
Soon shall come the great awak'ning; soon the rending of the tomb!  
Then the scatt'ring of all shadows, and the end of toil and gloom.



- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*(Needed: a picture of a candle)*

**P** Hello, boys and girls, and Happy New Year! Today is a day when we celebrate the year past and look forward to the year to come.

I brought a picture with me today. *(Hold up the picture of a candle.)* What is this a picture of? *(Allow the children to respond.)* That’s right. It is a candle. I want you to think today about holding a candle in a dark place. When we hold a candle in a dark place, it helps us to see the things around us and to find our way around.

The Bible says that Jesus is the Light of the world, the light that no darkness can overcome. When you think about it, Jesus is like this candle. *(Hold up candle picture again.)* He guides us through this dark world and helps us through troubles and problems when we cannot find our way. In the past year, maybe you have been sick, but Jesus got you through and made you better again. Maybe you were sad, but Jesus made you glad. Perhaps you had a big job that needed to get done, and Jesus helped you finish it.

Just like the light of Christ helped you through tough times in the past, he can lead you through anything that may happen in the year to come. I know some people who light their baptism candle on good days and on bad days to remind them that they are God’s children, forgiven and safe and loved. You may want to try that too this year. Even if you do not have an actual candle to light in the days to come this year, just imagine a candle on a hard day or a happy day and remember that Jesus will light the way every day of the year.

Let us pray: Dear Christ the Light, thank you for coming into our dark world to suffer and die for our sins and rise again. Let the light of your love guide us through all our days this year and in all the years to come. Amen.

- The **First Lesson**, from Isaiah 35, is read responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and rejoice with joy and singing.

**C** They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

**P** Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come and save you.”

**C** They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

☐ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped, and the tongue of the speechless shall sing for joy.

☑ **They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.**

☐ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing.

☑ **Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.**

☐ They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

• **A Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Ar Hyd Y Nos 84 84 88 84:

God, who made the earth and heaven, darkness and light:  
You the day for work have given, for rest the night.  
May your angel guards defend us, slumber sweet your mercy send us,  
Holy dreams and hopes attend us all through the night.

And when morn again shall call us to run life's way,  
May we still, whatever befall us, your will obey.  
From the power of evil hide us, in the narrow pathway guide us,  
Never be your smile denied us all through the day.

Guide us waking, guard us sleeping and, when we die,  
May we in your mighty keeping all peaceful lie.  
When the last dread call shall wake us, then, O Lord, do not forsake us,  
But to reign in glory take us with you on high.

• The **Second Lesson**, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Eventide 10 10 10 10:

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide,  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day,  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away.  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

- The **Gospel**, John 7:37-44 and 8:12, is read by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, “This is really the prophet.” Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But some asked, “Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?” So there was a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him ... Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

- The **Homily** is delivered by the pastor:

**P** Whenever we begin a new venture (and you’ll have to admit that beginning a new year is a new venture), there’s always the question: Where is it leading? How is it all going to come out?

Looking forward into a New Year is kind of like looking into a long and twisting tunnel, isn’t it? You know it leads to the next year, 52 weeks from now, but you can’t see that far ahead from this perspective. We may feel like the folks in today’s Gospel reading, stumbling about in the darkness, not knowing which way to go, and arguing about it along the way.

The Epistle reading gave us another view of the problem. Like so many of us at the turning of the year, the Thessalonians were concerned about what happens when a person dies—the

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Ellers 10 10 10 10". The score is written for piano and consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in common time (C) and the key of B-flat major (two flats). The first system begins with a measure number of 1. The second system begins with a measure number of 7. The third system begins with a measure number of 13. The music is primarily composed of chords and simple melodic lines. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "Creative Communications Sample" is overlaid diagonally across the center of the page, partially obscuring the musical notation.

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Ellers 10 10 10 10:

Savior, again to thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.  
Once more we bless thee ere our worship cease,  
Then, lowly bending, wait thy word of peace.

Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn thou for us its darkness into light.  
From harm and danger keep thy children free,  
For day and night are both alike to thee.

Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

Creative  
Communications  
Sample

# INTO THE DARKNESS

## Toward the Light

### The Turning of the Year

#### Contemporary Music Song Suggestions

- The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

“Let There Be Light” by Brooke Ligertwood, Joel Houston, Jonas Myrin, Matt Crocker, Michael Guy Chislett and Scott Ligertwood

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” by Kathleen Thomerson

“Shine on Us” by Deborah D. Smith and Michael W. Smith

“We Are” by Chuck Butler, Ed Cash, Hillary McBride and James Tealy

“Light of the World” by Eric Richey and Jamie Slocum

“Here I Am to Worship” by Tim Hughes

“Here in the Darkness Shines” by Billy McVay

“Days of Elijah” by Robin Mark

“Better Is One Day” by Matt Redman