

A NEW HEART FOR A NEW YEAR

a series of conversations and study based on Celtic wisdom

LORD OF MY HEART

Lord of my heart, **give me vision** to inspire me,
that working or resting, I may always think of you.

Lord of my heart, **give me light** to guide me,
that at home or abroad I may always walk in your way.

Lord of my heart, **give me wisdom** to direct me,
that thinking or acting, I may always discern right from wrong.

Lord of my heart, **give me courage** to strengthen me,
that amongst friends or enemies, I may always proclaim your justice.

Lord of my heart, **give me trust** to console me,
that hungry or well-fed, I may always rely on your mercy.

Lord of my heart, save me from empty praise,
that I may always boast of you.

Lord of my heart, save me from worldly wealth,
that I may always look to the riches of heaven.

Lord of my heart, save me from military prowess,
that I may always seek your protection.

Lord of my heart, save me from vain knowledge,
that I may always study your word.

Lord of my heart, save me from unnatural pleasures,
that I may always find joy in your wonderful creation.

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall me,
rule over my thoughts and feelings, my words and actions."

Ray Simpson, in *Daily Light from the Celtic Saints: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life*



2 : LIGHT

guest - Rev. Dr. Jonathan Hall

Rev. Dr. Jonathan B. Hall serves as Senior Pastor at First Christian Church in Colorado Springs, CO. He was born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama, attended Transylvania University, Eden Theological Seminary, Claremont School of Theology, and holds a Certificate of Ecumenical Studies from Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. For his doctoral project, he wrestled with his own story and the difference between privilege, blessing, and luck. In his free time, Jonathan likes to go to the water park with his family, mountain bike, hike, train for triathlons and adventure races, travel, play pickleball or racquetball, and read historical books with lots of footnotes. Jonathan and his wife, Annie, have two boys named Malachi and Zion, and a kitten named Bo Whiskers.

SESSION 2 : LIGHT

welcome : Dave Charlton

session : Michael Swartzentruber in conversation with **Jonathan Hall**

PRAYER FOCUS

*Lord of my heart, **give me light to guide me,**
that at home or abroad I may always walk in your way.*

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

John 8:12 (NRSV)

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."

MAIN IDEA

The light God provides makes visible not only new things but also old things. **With God's light we learn our way** through change and uncertainty, and we learn to tell bigger stories.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ⇒ What new things or what old things did you begin learning in 2020?
- ⇒ How will you make intentional space for God's light to enter into your life?
- ⇒ Where have you noticed light beginning to overcome the darkness around you?
- ⇒ What one-sided stories in your community might be illuminated to make space for more stories?