



“Let Your Light So Shine”

**Faith in Action
2022**

Based on

**“Divine Audacity”
by Linda Martella-Whitsett**

Small Group Study Guide

Spiritual Life Center

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Welcome to Faith in Action 2022

Don't Hide Your Light Under a Bushel

A small light has great power; it can illuminate a large dark room. The Master Teacher, Jesus the Christ, reminded those who had ears to hear that "Ye are the light" and not to hide your light under a bushel. He lets us know we are here to be the world's light.

When we see darkness in our life or world, it calls us to turn on the eternal light within, particularly when we face circumstances we prefer not to have.

But how do we turn on the light and keep it shining as we navigate the ups and downs of our human experience?

Part of the answer lies in the awareness and use of our innate spiritual powers. In her book, *Divine Audacity*, the text for this year's Faith in Action, Linda Martella-Whitsett explains what those spiritual powers are and how to activate them in our life.

This Faith in Action Program will not only help bring out the power within each of us, but it will also aid us in bringing the light

I look forward to going on this journey with you.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Trapp".

Rev. James Trapp
Senior Minister of Worship

Study Group Shared Agreements

Purpose: The purpose of shared agreements is to create a safe and healthy environment for the group. It is important that the group reviews these guidelines and that there is consensus before beginning any spiritual group.

Confidentiality: Everything shared by group members is confidential. What is said here, stays here.

Compassion: Group members come from a place of unconditional compassionate acceptance of one another as human beings. Judgmental comments, and even unspoken thoughts, threaten the group process.

Truth and Integrity: Group members are encouraged and supported by the group to honestly and authentically be who they are. Speaking the truth involves risk and can only occur safely in a compassionate environment.

Respect: Group members show respect for each other and the group by avoiding interrupting others, arriving on time, and allowing everyone time to share their thoughts and ideas with the group. We practice sacred listening and refrain from giving advice or trying to fix or solve others' problems.

“Listen to others with inward stillness, without opinion, assent, or dissent,
without criticism; hearing through the words into the soul of the other.”

Rudolph Steiner

Sharing Time: Take space, make space. Group members demonstrate respect by avoiding interrupting others, arriving on time, and allowing everyone time to share their thoughts and ideas with the group.

Participation: Group members agree to participate in discussion and group activities; however, each person has the right to ask to sit out or to modify his or her participation.

Conflict: Whenever people come together and speak truthfully the potential for hurt feelings, misunderstanding and conflict exists. If such a situation arises, group members agree to address it within the group process or one-on-one with the facilitator. Unresolved conflict is toxic to the whole group and not just to the parties involved.

I accept these shared agreements as the foundation for a successful study group.

Sign: _____ Date: _____

STUDY GROUP PRAYERS

Suggested Opening: The Co-Creator's Prayer

Loving Presence, with grateful hearts we join together as co-creators and friends. We come together to support each other as we learn, share, and explore how to live life more intentionally. We open our minds to receive your wisdom. We open our hearts to express your love. We open our souls to radiate your light.

May each of us hear what we are meant to hear and speak as you direct us. Now may each of us speak your intention or prayer for this gathering.

(Intention or short prayer from each who wishes to speak them.)

We now enter into sacred agreement with each other to honor our intentions as we support each other in our spiritual growth. We listen to others with inward stillness, without opinion, assent or dissent, without criticism, hearing through the words into the soul of the other.

Thank you, God, for your loving presence with us and within us; may all we say and do be in harmony with you. Thank you, God!

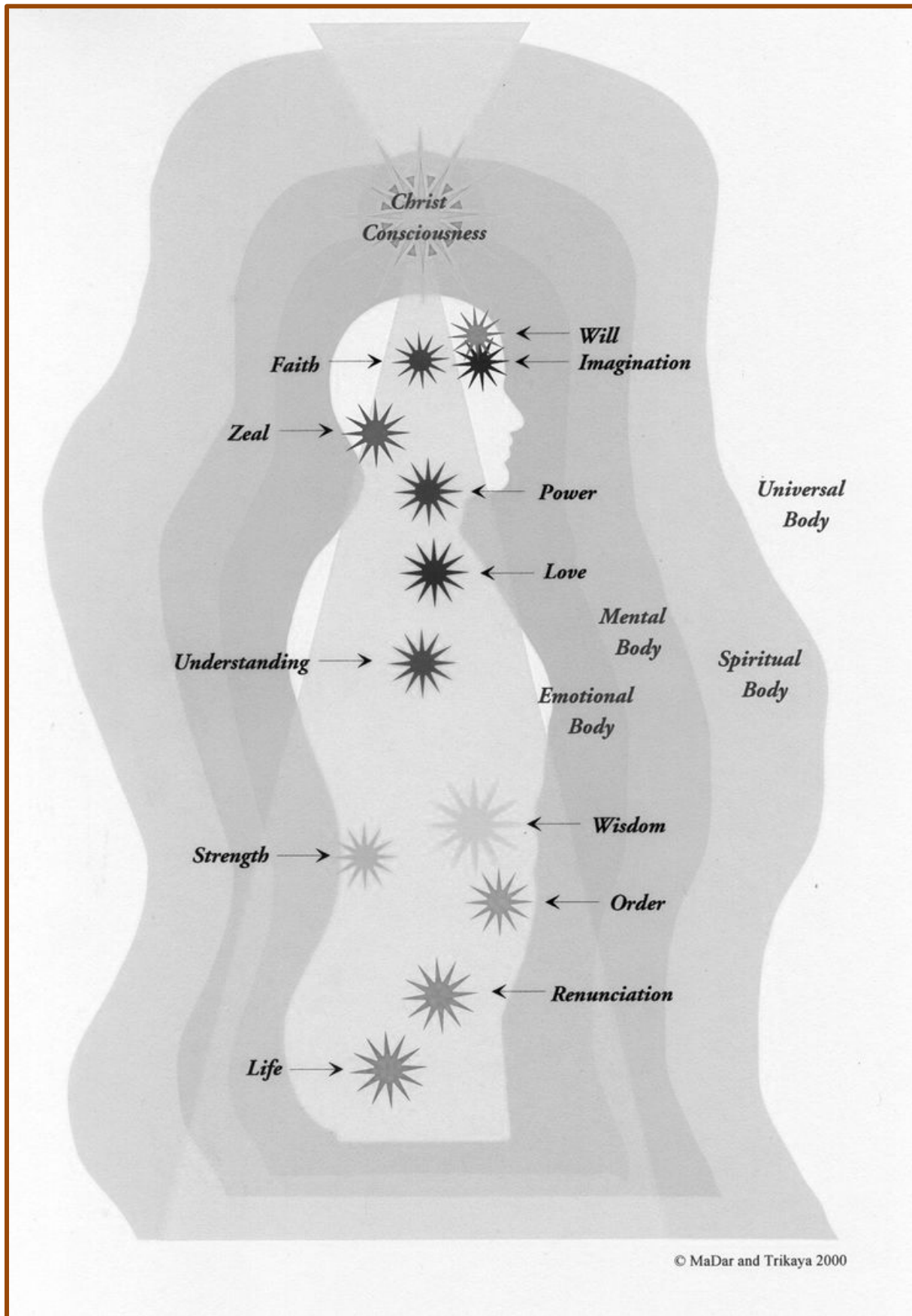
Suggested Closing Prayer

Thank you, God, for your loving presence that has guided and directed us in this session. We honor each person in this group and trust in the process of each other's unique spiritual journey. We hold in sacred trust the personal matters we have shared in this gathering.

We go forward in positive expectancy of ever-increasing good as we remain ever mindful of your presence, power and love within us.

We thank you, God. Amen.

12 Powers Chart



Faith in Action Weekly Colors

SLC uses Chakra colors each week as we journey toward greater awareness and aliveness.

Chakras, as an ancient spiritual system, show the path of integration of mind, body, and spirit leading to enlightenment.

The SLC community joins together during this seven-week period and wears the color of the week on Sundays to show their commitment to the journey.

On the next page, you will find the weekly affirmations ready for color printing to cut out and post at your desk, refrigerator, mirror or anywhere else. These are reminders of the current stage of this book study journey we are all taking together.

Blessings!

WEEKLY AFFIRMATION CARDS:

Your next page can be printed out in color (on cardstock if you like) as a means to create affirmation cards for each week of the Faith in Action program.

Print this page of FIA Affirmations cut out weekly, and enjoy:

Week One	Faith in Action 2022	Spiritual Life Center	slcworld.org	I embrace bold Spiritual Living by embracing my Divine Identity. My light shines for all to see.
Week Two	Faith in Action 2022	Spiritual Life Center	slcworld.org	Through Faith I see all possibilities. As my Understanding transcends fleeting facts, I see Truth. My light shines for all to see.
Week Three	Faith in Action 2022	Spiritual Life Center	slcworld.org	I am Willing, I Imagine. I am a living expression of the union of Mind and Heart. My light shines for all to see.
Week Four	Faith in Action 2022	Spiritual Life Center	slcworld.org	With Zeal I am devoted to my purpose. Using my Power of Self-mastery, I concentrate, focus, accomplish. My light shines for all to see.
Week Five	Faith in Action 2022	Spiritual Life Center	slcworld.org	Love magnetizes and unifies me. I am guided by my innate Power of Wisdom. My light shines for all to see.
Week Six	Faith in Action 2022	Spiritual Life Center	slcworld.org	. With Strength I stand my Holy Ground. I am anchored and my life flows in Divine Order. My light shines for all to see.
Week Seven	Faith in Action 2022	Spiritual Life Center	slcworld.org	Spiritual Release cleanses and refreshes me. My Life is Holy Presence expressing through me. My light shines for all to see.

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Let Your Light So Shine

Faith in Action Fall 2022

Divine Audacity

By Linda Martella-Whitsett



Week One:

You are the Light of the World

Parts 1 & 2

Pages 3 -35

Part 1: You Are the Light of the World

“Arise, shine, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has
risen upon you.” *Isaiah 60:1*

1. On page iv, we read that it is not possible to become spiritual enough to eliminate all unwanted circumstances. If this is true, what is the point or purpose of pursuing a spiritual path?
2. In this section of the book, *divine audacity* is defined as Bold Spiritual Living under the premise that “I am Divine.” What is your initial reaction when you say, “I am Divine?”
3. After practicing with this affirmation for a while, how would you describe or explain your own Divine Identity?
4. Discuss the following ways that you can grow into and expand your Divine Identity.
 - Acknowledge the Light
 - Admit the Light
 - Allow the Light
 - Be the Light

Part 2: Our Shades of Light

“We grow to be like that which we idealize. Affirming or naming a mighty spiritual principle identifies the mind with that principle, then all that the principle stands for in the realm of ideas is poured out upon the one who affirms.”

Charles Fillmore, *The Twelve Powers of Man*

1. We all have inherent, latent spiritual abilities or powers that we can unfold and use to improve our lives and help others. Why do you think it is important to understand your powers?
2. If all spiritual abilities come from the same Source, why are we so different in our expression of them?
3. Explore how you can begin to discover these abilities and begin to direct them.
4. List some ways that can help you realize your infinite Self.

Week Two: The Lights of Faith & Understanding

Chapters 1 & 2 Pages 37 - 60

Chapter 1: The Light of Faith

“Faith is the perceiving power of the mind linked with a power to shape substance. It is spiritual assurance, the power to do the seemingly impossible. It is a force that draws to us our heart's desire right out of the invisible spiritual substance.”

Charles Fillmore, *Keep a True Lent*

1. Faith means different things to different people. Discuss your current idea of Faith and how it works in your life.
2. The reading states that perception is critical to our experience of reality. Compare these two specific perceptions mentioned in the book:
 - a. The perception of absolute truth, or spiritual principles underlying all human conditions.
 - b. Our perception of possibilities.
3. What is Conviction and why is it such an important aspect of Faith?
 - a. Share a time that you demonstrated a conviction. Did you realize that you were demonstrating Faith, or did you just feel stubborn?
4. Some people say that to have expectations is to be let down. But we cannot get through the day without expectation. Discuss the difference between blind expectation and spiritual expectation.

Chapter 2: The Light of Understanding

“Spiritual understanding is the ability of the mind to apprehend and realize the laws of thought and the relation of ideas one to another.”

Charles Fillmore, *The Revealing Word*.

1. We live to Understand, to make sense of our world. How would you define spiritual understanding vs. intellectual understanding from your personal perspective?
2. Discuss how comprehension takes you beyond mere intellectual understanding. Why are the connections we make so important?
3. Realization is often a moment when something just snaps into place, when all the pieces come together. Think of a time when you were pondering something when “all of a sudden” realization settled in. Explore the idea that it wasn’t really sudden, but an accumulation of connections.
4. Insight is our capacity to employ comprehension and realization. Discuss some of the ways that you have employed comprehension and realization to gain deep insight into a situation. Share how that insight helped you work through the situation.
5. Bonus question: What is the value of simply listening in your quest for Spiritual Understanding?

Week Three:

The Lights of Will & Imagination

Chapters 3 & 4

Pages 61 -90

Chapter 3: The Light of Will

“The will is the executive faculty of the mind and carries out the edicts of the I AM.”

Charles Fillmore, *Christian Healing*

1. How do you understand the difference between personal and divine Will?
2. We always have options; we get to choose. Discuss a significant choice you have made in your life. Was it based on your personal will or divine will. What was the outcome? How might the outcome have been different depending on which Will you used?
3. We read that, “out of infinite possibilities, I choose one and make it mine.” What must you do to make that choice *yours*?
4. Discuss the difference between Willfulness and Willingness. Explore the fine line between Commitment and Willfulness. Give examples from your own life.

Chapter 4: The Light of Imagination

“Imagination is the act or power of forming a mental image of something not present or never before wholly perceived in reality.”

James Dillet Freeman, *Imagination*

1. Some people will say, “I have no imagination.” Based on the reading, discuss why imagination is natural to us.
2. “Conception is the foundation of imagination.” What is the value of understanding that everything that you can conceive of originates in One Mind?
3. When we speak of visions, we usually first think of the spiritual kind. But vision is the way we bring ideas into being.
 - a. Keeping in mind that now everyone sees mental pictures, discuss how you vision in everyday life.
 - b. If you feel comfortable, share a spiritual vision you have experienced.
4. Explore the difference between manifestation and embodiment. Why is embodiment the “pinnacle of creation?”

Week Four: The Lights of Zeal & Power

Chapters 5 & 6 Pages 91 -120

Chapter 5: The Light of Zeal

“Zeal: Intensity, ardor, enthusiasm, the inward fire of the soul that urges humankind onward.”

Charles Fillmore, *The Revealing Word*

1. In the beginning of the chapter, we read that energy itself is not good or bad – it is how we use it. Explore how you can tell the difference between frenetic energy and zeal.
2. Enthusiasm is our outward expression of Zeal. How is enthusiasm different from excitement?
3. What does it mean to be audacious? Describe the difference between being pushy and obnoxious and being audacious.
4. To be zealous about something can be interpreted as being overly devoted. Yet, as discussed in this chapter, single-minded devotion can be cultivated in a healthy way. What is your understanding of devotion and how does it play out in your life?

Chapter 6: The Light of Power

“The Power that rules the world is within.

Charles Fillmore, *Atom Smashing Power of Mind*

1. When you hear or see the word *power* what is your initial reaction? Do you immediately think of politicians? Electricity? Or do you think of your inner Power? Why are these distinctions important?
2. Research tells us that it is impossible for humans to multi-task with any success. Our reading tells us that concentration is the antidote for multi-tasking. Think of a time when you thought you were multi-tasking but ultimately discovered that you were accomplishing very little. What did you do to bring yourself back to center?
3. When we consider self-mastery, we sometimes think that it's a one-time achievement that becomes a permanent condition. Share your ideas about what self-mastery really means and the process through which you achieve this goal.
4. Spiritual Authority is most often “assigned” to specific people: ministers, priests, shamans, gurus, etc. The truth is that we all carry spiritual authority within. Explore your own feeling of spiritual authority. Share a time when you claimed and used your inner power.

Week Five: The Lights of Love & Wisdom

Chapters 7 & 8 Pages 121 -145

Chapter 7: The Light of Love

“The individual suffers because he perceived duality. Find the One everywhere and in everything and there will be an end to pain and suffering.”

Sri Anandamayi Ma

1. According to the reading, “Love” is overused and misunderstood. Examine your ideas about love. Discuss how the reading challenges or affirms those ideas.
2. Love is an impersonal, spiritual power. Think of the people you love. Explore the difference between personal and impersonal love. How do circumstances change when you click into impersonal love? Consider how you feel inside impersonal love. . . are you freer? Happier?
3. Looking for good in a situation is a way to come back into Harmony. Describe a time when you were in a difficult situation and, while accepting the circumstances, you looked for the good that could be found. Share how Harmony saw you through and helped you see new solutions.
4. When we feel apart, we lose focus and our self-mastery wanes. What do you do to dissolve that sense of separation and come into spiritual Unity? Share.

Chapter 8: The Light of Wisdom

“And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left,
your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way;
walk in it.

Isaiah 30:21

1. Wisdom is inborn, natural. We often confuse wisdom with knowledge. Based on the reading discuss the difference between wisdom and knowledge. How do they work against each other. How do they work together?
2. Judgement is a positive aspect of Wisdom but most of us have a negative reaction to the word *judgement*. Why do we have this reaction? How do we learn to execute Right Judgement? Is it possible to make choices and decisions without judging?
3. Explore how Judgement and Discernment differ. Discuss what the reading means when it uses the term “sensing without judgement.” Share a time when you used discernment either consciously or unconsciously.
4. Intuition is simply *knowing*. Share your experience in using your intuition.
 - a. Does it come naturally, or have you had to develop your awareness of your intuition?
 - b. Discuss how you can tell the difference between your own mind and intuition.

Week Six:

The Lights of Strength & Order

Chapters 9 & 10

Pages 147- 173

Chapter 9: The Light of Strength

“Strength is physical, mental, and spiritual. All strength originates in Spirit. . . ”

Charles Fillmore, *The Revealing Word*

1. Explore how physical, mental, and spiritual strength differ. How are they alike?
2. We all need a stable foundation from which to live our lives. What are some of the words used to describe stability? Which words resonate with you? Discuss why.
3. Often, we associate Courage with being in danger, but we need courage in our everyday lives to stand in our own center and be who we really are. Discuss a time when an everyday situation called you to be courageous and either face it or walk away. How did you feel afterwards?
4. A person who is tenacious and persistent is often called stubborn or inflexible. Share some examples of how you can be persistent, yet flexible or tenacious, yet open to new ideas. What is the advantage in understanding these differences?

Chapter 10: The Light of Order

“Order is the first law of the universe. Indeed, there could be no universe unless its various parts were kept in perfect harmony.”

Charles Fillmore, *Mysteries of Genesis*

1. Explore the idea of Order, how we rely on it, how we make meaning from it. Then discuss the difference between Order and God's will as discussed in this chapter.
2. The world around us is organized but we often feel personally disorganized. Consider how you feel when you are in a chaotic energy vs. when your energy is organized and harmonious. When are you most effective?
3. We tend to think that things have to stay fixed, not change, for order to prevail. But in real life we are always making adjustments – our house is orderly, yet we rearrange the furniture. We might feel the need to put a bookcase back in order. We find that we need to change our thinking about a situation. How does it feel to make these kinds of adjustments? What happens when you adjust your thinking or attitude and come back into the flow of Order?

There is great order in change, if nothing changes, we stagnate. The continual adjustment to our lives is called evolution. Think about your life and how you have evolved over the years. Consider times when life felt very chaotic and discuss how Order grew out of that time.

Week Seven: The Lights of Release & Life

Chapters 11 & 12, Part 3 Pages 175 -214

Chapter 11: The Light of Release

“There must be a renunciation or letting go of old thoughts before the new can find a place in consciousness.”

Charles Fillmore, *The Twelve Powers of Man*

1. We often come across vocabulary that means something to us but is used differently in context. This chapter uses the words *cleansing*, *renunciation*, *repentance*. What is your first, gut reaction to these words?
2. Charles Fillmore called mistakes “mental dirt,” meaning that they can easily be washed away so that you are clear and refreshed. Examine the idea of mental dirt: does it give you a positive or negative feeling? What are other ways to express the idea that our negative thoughts and feelings can be dissolved and replaced with new, positive thoughts?
3. Renouncement seems like a very harsh word. But all it really means is a turning away from something. What happens when you turn from negative, destructive thoughts and face the light, the good in a situation? How does your life change? How do *you* change?
4. To repent is to sanctify, become sacred, holy. In renunciation you turn away from, in repentance you turn toward. Think about a time when you turned away from something that was not working for you and then moved toward a new way of being. How have you been sanctified, made holy and whole?

Chapter 12: The Light of Life

“Life as a principle and spiritual ability is not to be confused with *human* life.”

Linda Martella-Whitsett, *Divine Audacity*

1. What is the difference between material life and spiritual life?
2. The reading states that natural life is not inherently intelligent, there must be an animating power. What does this mean? Discuss how life derives its intelligence from the consciousness behind it.
3. Though we don't always realize it, our true nature is wholeness. Explore the real meaning of *vitality* and the place it plays in our perception of wholeness.
4. In this life we have the material and the invisible. Form is the material while being or Presence is the invisible. Take time to really explore your own Presence: feel it, sense it, bask in your own being. Discuss your relationship to the invisible and how Presence brings you into oneness.

Part 3

Now that you have studied our twelve inherent, latent powers choose the one that you resonate with the most.

Make a commitment to work with this power until it becomes a natural part of your being. You may find that you eventually work your way through all twelve attributes, or you may simply hone one or two. They all work, and it is better to concentrate than to try and integrate all twelve at once.

Let your light shine as you walk in

Divine Faith
Divine Understanding
Divine Will
Divine Imagination
Divine Zeal
Divine Power
Divine Love
Divine Wisdom
Divine Strength
Divine Order
Divine Release
Divine Life

May the joys of the world go with you,



Rev. Deborah Phillips
Assistant Minister of Worship