

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE FOR ORGAN**

La Nativité du Seigneur: iii. Dessesins éternels

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

*In 1935, Messiaen, who served as organist of the Church of the Holy Trinity (9<sup>th</sup> arrondissement) in Paris, composed a set of nine meditations on the birth of the Savior. This movement, translated as "Eternal Purposes," has Ephesians 1:5-6 printed at the top of the score: "[God] destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."*

*The melody moves slowly atop dense chords, all part of Messiaen's own tonal system, his "modes of limited transposition."*

**WELCOME**

**Pastor:** May the peace of the Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**PEALING OF THE BELL AND SILENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

*Eternal God, neither death nor life can separate us from your love.*

*Grant that we may serve you faithfully here on earth.*

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Pastor:** Arise, shine; for your light has come; and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**People:** **Lift up your eyes and look around; sons and daughters gather together, they come to you.**

**Leader:** Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

**People:** **They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

**Leader:** Let us worship God.

**\* HYMN** (see page 6)

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Divinum mysterium*

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

[Isaiah 60:1-5](#)

Charles Park, layreader

*after each reading:*

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**MUSIC FOR SOLO VOICE AND ORGAN**

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Ryan Capozzo, tenor

Carl F. Schalk, 1986

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,

I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred.

But there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:

sweet, newborn Babe, how frail, and in a manger bed:

a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,

his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:

a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I, forget how Love was born and burned

its way into my heart: unasked, unforced, unearned:

to die, to live, and not alone for me.

*-Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1986*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

[John 1:10-18](#)

**SERMON**

"First Things First"

Rev. Love

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Nicene Creed*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING** (Go to website <https://ryepc.com/give/> or see below to give online.)

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### INVITATION AND GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Creator God, we give you thanks and praise for the beauty of the earth in every season.

Especially we thank you for the beauty found in this season of Christmas. The stars of night light our way, just as Jesus the true light reveals to us the way of life. Trees and branches, and all of creation overflow with reminders of your great abundance toward us.

Even with all you have done for us, we turned against you, rejecting your love. Yet you did not stop loving us. Instead, you sent prophets, messengers who announced peace, good news, salvation!

Therefore we break forth together into singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

As you spoke long ago to our ancestors in many and various ways, you have spoken to us by a Son, Jesus Christ. He is the reflection of your glory; the exact imprint of your very being; and all things are sustained by his powerful word. He lived among us, died for us, and now sits at the right hand of Majesty on high.

Celebrating the truth of this season, we speak the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine, joining us in true communion with Christ and with all who share this feast, in heaven and on earth. May we truly receive him, and so believe in his name, that we have power to become children of God, united in ministry in every place.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory belongs to you, O God, full of grace and truth. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

#### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*If you are joining at the table from home, please take part in Communion with whatever elements you have.  
In the sanctuary, communion elements are available from an usher.*

**MUSIC FOR ORGAN**

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (How Lovely Shines the Morningstar) Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
**and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.**  
Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
**and forget not all God’s benefits.**

\* **HYMN** (see page 7) On Christmas Night All Christians Sing *Sussex Carol*

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE FOR ORGAN**

Gigue Fugue on *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

*This is the concluding section of a larger work based on the chorale so titled.*

*\*indicates standing for those who are able.*

*Following the conclusion of the postlude, online participants will be given the opportunity to unmute themselves and to greet one another.*

*Welcome to Rye Presbyterian Church*

If you are new to Rye Presbyterian Church, we welcome you and hope you are enriched and inspired by this time worship. So that we may get to know you better, or if you would like more information about RPC, please go to: <https://ryepc.com/im-new/> and fill out the Welcome Form.

*The chancel flowers are given  
in loving memory of William Morse by Priscilla and Jeanette Morse.*

*In Memoriam*

Ankie Zeilstra, on December 29, mother of José Zeilstra.

**To families with young children:**

Welcome! We are glad you’re here! Jesus not only welcomed children, he also blessed them. Know that your children’s presence in worship is both welcomed and a blessing to us all!

Here are some ideas to help make the most out of worship as a family:

- ❖ Please make sure to register to attend worship each week so we know how many from your family will be attending.
  - ❖ Bring crayons or colored pencils from home so your children can color the provided coloring pages and illustrated children’s bulletins. It might also be helpful to bring a hard surface (a book or clipboard) for them to use while coloring.
  - ❖ Explain what is happening during worship and what is coming next. Let children cross things off in the bulletin as they happen. Whispering is okay!
  - ❖ When it’s time to stand, allow children to kneel on the pews if they would like.
  - ❖ Allow children to participate in the offering by putting in your envelope or putting in their own gift in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. A picture drawn for God is appropriate!
- Most importantly, relax and be at peace. We know that God made children to be full of energy and excitement!

**TODAY**



**VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**This Sunday, January 3,** we will reflect together on what prayer is, discuss different ways to pray, and learn about the Lord’s Prayer. We will experience how the Lord’s Prayer illumines God’s dream of justice and love for the world!

**All children in PreK-5th grade are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings for a small combined 30-minute class via Zoom at 9:00 a.m.!** If you would like your child(ren) to participate via Zoom, please fill out the registration form on our website <https://ryepc.com/ministries/children/>.

We are also including a **Take-Home Sheet** and a **Lord’s Prayer booklet** in our **weekly Christian Ed newsletter** so families can join us as we explore our belongingness and connectedness with each other, the world, and God through the Lord’s Prayer! If you would like to receive these materials and are not already signed up for our weekly Christian Ed newsletter, please contact **Rev. JP** ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)).

## THIS WEEK

### Monday, January 4

- 9:30 a.m. Monday Morning Bible Discussion, via Zoom - contact Dan Love ([dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com))  
5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry – Even Stephens, via Zoom  
8:00 p.m. NOLA Registration, online –  
*click here:* <https://ryepc.com/article/nola-youth-mission-trips-summer-2021-registration/>

### Tuesday, January 5

- 6:00 p.m. Stephen Leaders, via Zoom

### Wednesday, January 6

- 8:30 a.m. Women's Discipleship, via Zoom – contact Alicia Baldwin ([alicia.baldwin@verizon.net](mailto:alicia.baldwin@verizon.net)) or Courtney Bennett ([courtneybennett91@gmail.com](mailto:courtneybennett91@gmail.com)) for the link.  
5:30 p.m. Connection, via Zoom – contact Rev. JP ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com))  
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry – True Blues, via Zoom  
7:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach, via Zoom

### Thursday, January 7

- 3:30 p.m. Children's Choir, via Zoom  
6:30 p.m. Stephen Leaders – Prime Ministers, via Zoom  
7:30 p.m. Adult Education, via Zoom – contact John Miller ([jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com))

### Saturday, January 9

- 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, via Zoom

## 2021 SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIPS TO NEW ORLEANS



It is our hope to continue serving alongside our neighbors in New Orleans this summer: June 27-July 3 and August 1-7. We will continue our partnership with Rebuilding Together New Orleans and will stay at Camp Restore of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School for lodging. Sign-up for the trips will begin online on **TOMORROW, Monday, January 4**, at 8:00 p.m. (*click here:* <https://ryepc.com/article/nola-youth-mission-trips-summer-2021-registration/>) and will require a \$100 deposit. Space is limited, so please mark your calendars!

Any questions, contact Rev JP ([jmarshall@ryepc.com](mailto:jmarshall@ryepc.com)).

## GENERAL NOTICES

### E-MAIL PRAYER GROUP

Our e-mail prayer group is going strong. Please join us in our ministry of prayer for others. Or if you have a prayer request, please do not hesitate to contact [rpcprayers@gmail.com](mailto:rpcprayers@gmail.com).



### WEEKDAY HOURS

The church is open 10-2, Monday through Friday. Only one door will be open - the door facing Parsons Street near the Assembly Room. If you need access to the building at some other time during the day, please contact the church office at 967-0842, or at [rpc@ryepc.com](mailto:rpc@ryepc.com). If you do come to the church, please take careful note of the guidelines that are in place so that we may all safely use the church building together. (<https://ryepc.com/article/weekday-reopening-of-rye-presbyterian/>)

### ONLINE GIVING

Online pledging and donation options are available on the RPC Website Giving page ([ryepc.com/give/](https://ryepc.com/give/)).  
To donate, you may also scan the QR Code to the right with your cell phone.  
Please contact Maida Robinson at [mrobinson@ryepc.com](mailto:mrobinson@ryepc.com), if you have any questions.  
Many thanks for your continued generosity and support of the church!



### CONNECTION & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Both our middle school Connection and High School Youth Group are meeting with a mix of Zoom and in-person gatherings! Please visit the "Youth Ministry" page of the website – <https://ryepc.com/ministries/youth/> - to get a glimpse of what our youth are up to this year.

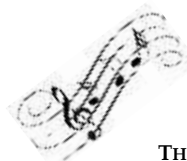
## JOIN THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OR THE YOUTH CHOIR!

CALLING ALL CHILDREN IN GRADES 1-6

CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 7 AND UP

THIS YEAR WE ARE LEARNING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND DELVING INTO THE ART OF MUSICAL SIGNING!

For more information, please contact Lisa Rawson, Director ([lrawson@ryepc.com](mailto:lrawson@ryepc.com))





### STEWARDSHIP 2021

A heartfelt thank-you to all who have sent in your 2021 pledges already – with faithfulness and generosity, you are a blessing!

**As of December 28, here's where we stand:**

Annual Stewardship for 2021: **219 pledges for \$1,210,541.**

Between increases and new pledges, we are up **10.5%** from 2020.

*Yet we are still below our projected 2021 budget.*

**It is not too late to be included!**

To make pledges for Stewardship 2021, please contact the church office at 967-0842, or pledge online: <https://ryepc.com/stewardship-2021/>

Also, over \$20,000 has been pledged toward the new Abraham & Sarah window!

### Adult Education

### THURSDAY REFLECTIONS

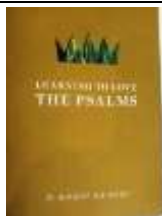
**Thursdays through January 21, 7:30 p.m.**

We meet together on Thursday evenings via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. Our first series will explore some of the basic tenets of our Reformed Faith. This four-part series includes 12 articles written by a variety of pastors and theologians. The remaining themes are:

**What Does God Have To Do With Us? What Do We Have To Do With Each Other?**

The group participants reflect a wide range of beliefs and are very accepting and respectful of all views.

Contact John Miller at [jmiller@ryepc.com](mailto:jmiller@ryepc.com) or 914-967-0842, ex. 14 for Zoom info and articles, which will be sent by email, or USPS if requested.



### Wednesday Mornings Women's Discipleship Group

**8:30-10:00 a.m., Via Zoom**

Join us for our study: **Learning to Love THE PSALMS**

For details, email either

Alicia Baldwin ([alicia.baldwin@verizon.net](mailto:alicia.baldwin@verizon.net)), or

Courtney Bennett ([Courtneybennett910@gmail.com](mailto:Courtneybennett910@gmail.com)).

### RPC THRIFT SHOP HAS CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS



We will revisit opening in January. At this time, our ability to take donations is limited. If you have specific items you would like to donate, please email us at: [mailto:ryethrift10580@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:ryethrift10580@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your continued support!**

### RPC CHAPEL PEW - FREE FOR GOOD HOME!

From the remodeling of the RPC chapel a few years ago, we have one 9-foot pew available for adoption. For more information, contact Dan Love - [dlove@ryepc.com](mailto:dlove@ryepc.com).



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La Nativité du Seigneur: Neuf Méditations pour Orgue  
by Olivier Messiaen

© 1936 Alphonse Leduc et Compagnie, Paris.

Divinum mysterium [Of the Father's Love Begotten]  
setting by C. Winfred Douglas

Music harm. © 1943, 1961, 1985 Church Pension Fund.

Used by permission.

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

text by Jaroslav J. Vajda; music by Carl F. Schalk

Text © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission

Music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Divinum mysterium*



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan  
 2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it  
 3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full  
 6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the  
 was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -  
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the  
 to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft  
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -  
 wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5<sup>th</sup> century; transl. John M. Neale, 1854, alt., and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.  
 music: Plainsong, Mode V; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Sussex Carol

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B<sup>b</sup> (D) F (A7) C7 (D) F



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the  
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re -  
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and  
 4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the

(G) B<sup>b</sup> (A) C (D) F (G) B<sup>b</sup>



news the an - gels bring; on Christ - mas night all  
 deem - er made us glad; then why should we on  
 health come in its place; when sin de - parts be -  
 an - gels sing this night; all out of dark - ness

(D) F (A) C (D) F (G) B<sup>b</sup> (A) C (D) F



Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring,  
 earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er made us glad,  
 fore his grace, then life and health comes in its place;  
 we have light, which made the an - gels sing this night:

(A) C (Em) Gm (D) F (A) C



news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
 when from our sin he set us free,  
 heav - en and earth with joy may sing,  
 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heaven;

(D) F (G) B<sup>b</sup> (A) C (G) B<sup>b</sup> (D) F



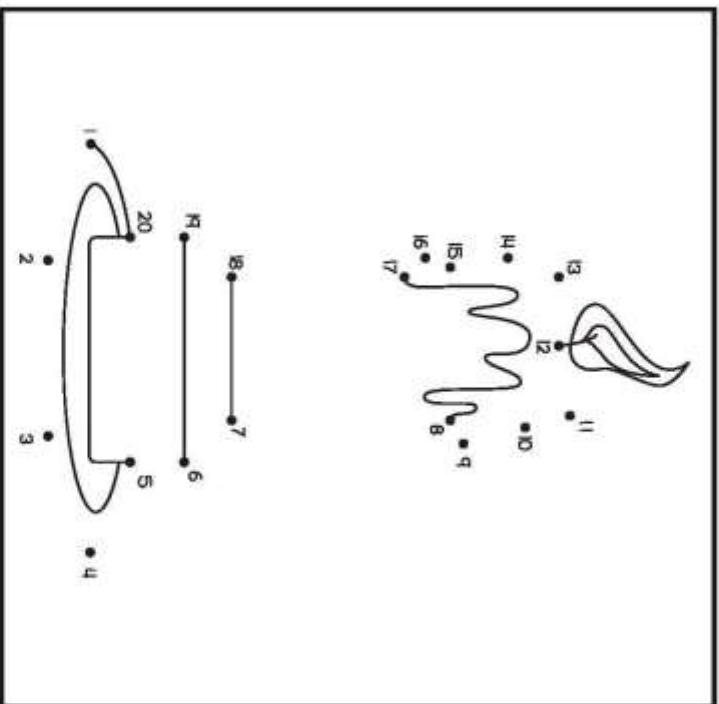
news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
 all for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
 all for to see the new - born King.  
 peace on earth and good - will. A - men!"

text: English carol; alt.

music: English carol; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1912

# CONNECT the DOTS

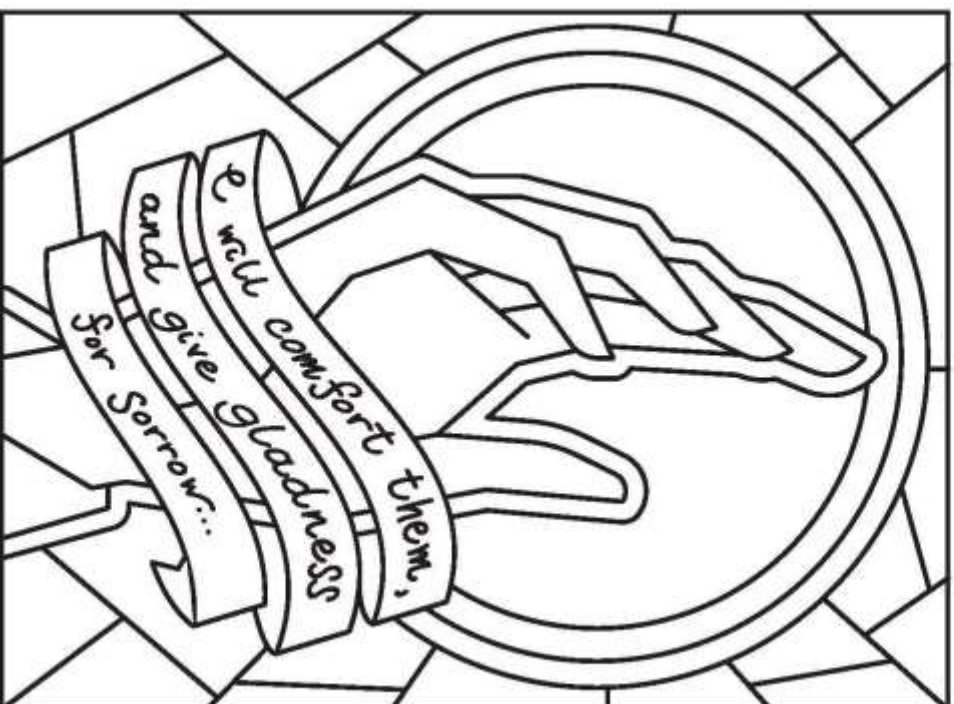
Jesus is described as the "true light" - the light of all people. Connect the dots to form a candle. Around the candle, write or draw some ways you see God's light in the world.



Suggested for use on January 3, 2021 based on the PCL.  
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# CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Jeremiah 31:7-9, Psalm 147:2-20, John 1:1-19, 6-18







# DRAW IT

The very beginning of John describes Jesus as the "Word" who became human to live with us and show us what God is really like. What does Jesus look like to you? Draw a picture here:

# WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from Psalm 147 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

O I F D J U M Y W H E A T S K  
 E H O R T I C G K B D N F D S  
 N E K O O E U E T W O G T S E  
 L B K L C A W S R I A E D C B  
 Y T U A M R M I T S B T V Y Z  
 P B E S N T S A F R N O E L E  
 L P O H E H N R K O Y O O R G  
 Z J H R R K A P X A A O W Z M  
 C F Y E D P K N Y T W M X S Q  
 V J O J L E Z S H Z F R O S T  
 G C G Z I A R C G R A D J S F  
 G U N E H T G N E R T S T E D  
 P X O J C D G X H O C S D L A  
 D N I W I P E B M U R C O B L  
 L Z Z N S T J M J F W C R I H

- |            |        |        |
|------------|--------|--------|
| PRAYSE     | PEACE  | FROST  |
| LORD       | BORDER | CRUMB  |
| ZION       | WHEAT  | COLD   |
| STRENGTHEN | EARTH  | WIND   |
| BLESS      | WOOL   | WATER  |
| CHILDREN   | SNOW   | NATION |

