



Community UCC, 805 South 6th Street, Champaign, IL 61820
Epiphany 2B
Live Stream Service
January 10, 2021



Community UCC

We're worth our words
Welcoming Progressive Community
Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Epiphany 2

January 10, 2021

Gathering Music

Simply, Alleluia

Led by Kathy Lee

Music by Tom Fettke

Thoughts before Worship:

Today, we begin a new worship series at Community United Church of Christ. For this Epiphany season, as we focus this morning on "Awe and Wonder" our theme is "God is Holding your Life." Today, we read Psalm 93 and the affirmation "My God gives strength to the people and blesses the people with peace..." Strength and peace are the prayer of the Psalm this week. The Psalmist says "let me count the ways" that we can know the strength of the Holy One. With awe and wonder we behold the presence of God in all the elements of creation—water, fire, air, earth. And it is this glory that assures us that God, indeed, is holding our lives. It is the day in the liturgical calendar when we remember the baptism of Christ and so you are invited to have a cup or bowl of water ready. We will remember that moment, and baptism moments of our own later in worship. Today, in Awe and Wonder, God is holding our lives. So, as we begin worship, we welcome you. This welcome statement is borrowed from Land of the Sky Church, and Greenpoint Reformed Church, with whom we worshipped last week. And now, it is tried out here, with us, Community UCC: Who are we? We are young and old. Gay and straight and in between. We are single and partnered. Happy and sad, confused and inspired. We are street smart and college educated. Some of us can't pay our bills and others of us have more than enough to share. Who are we? We are God's people. We are the Body of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here and we really mean it. Welcome to worship.

Prelude

Amazing Grace

Brian Clark

Music Composer: Trad. American, arr. Randall Hartsell

Call to Worship

Randy Ewoldt

Each week, we will be called to worship with words from the Psalm and a musical refrain brought to us by Worship Design Studio. You will hear new words set to a familiar tune – friends, let us seek to simplify this moment, slow down for a time. Let us worship, leaning on prayer, reflection and sharing with one another.

Musical Call to Worship

Worship Design Studio

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Hymn

God Reigns ov'r All the Earth

NCH 21 v 1, 2, 4

Led by: Megan Krejci, Larry Lee, Xiaoyi Zha, Elena Negruta

Jane Parker Huber

Traditional English melody, Adapt. Franklin L Sheppard

One License #A-734456

*God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low, the
farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains, in
rainbow hues – reds, yellows, blues – of streams and country lanes.*

*God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years, in
death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still. Through
all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.*

*God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day, in
all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's
presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!*

Passing of the Peace

During this season, when you offer the peace, you are invited to make a gesture of extending your cupped hands toward others who may be with you in your house as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us. And if you are alone, place your cupped hands over your heart, as a sign that you send your heartfelt peace out to the world. In a moment, we will unspotlight me, and CUCCers, you will be invited to unmute yourself, so that you may do this gesture and offer the peace of Christ to one another.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Moment

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

(after Children's Moment, children PreK – 5th Graders are invited to go to the Breakout Room for Sunday School)

(requires a 2nd device for the children to access the breakout room)

(children return to worship when their lesson is complete)

Prelude to Scripture

Randy Ewoldt

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now for the meaning they might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from the Psalms using the Lukan Psalter

Psalm 29

Give glory to ADONAI, you heavenly court,
give ADONAI glory and strength!
Give forth the glory that God's Name deserves,
and worship ADONAI in the splendor of holiness!

The voice of ADONAI resounds
over the waters;
the God of glory thunders over the
raging seas.
God's voice is powerful,
God's voice is full of majesty.

The voice of ADONAI snaps the cedars,
shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
It makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of ADONAI strikes with
bolts of lightning;
the voice of YHWH shakes the wilderness,
the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of God twists the oaks,
and strips the forests bare;
and in God's Temple all cry, "Glory!"

ADONAI sits in judgment over the flood;
ADONAI is its Ruler forever.
Give strength to your people, ADONAI!
Bless your people with peace!

Postlude to Scripture

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

Sermon

Awe and Wonder

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Hymn

I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry

NCH 351

Led by: Jeanne Ward

John Ylvisaker

One License #A-734456

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off
and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God,
to whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

Call to Offering and Call to Prayer

Randy Ewoldt

On this day where we remember with awe and wonder that we are blessed and loved, whole and complete, we know without a doubt that gifts are plentiful. Each one of you gifted by the God who is the giver of all good gifts. And, so, if you have gifts to share, you are invited to go to www.community-ucc.org to click on donate to contribute your pledge or a give a gift. All your contributions help sustain the mission and ministry of this Community of faith, which is a beacon for so many. May God bless and multiply all that we give to God's glory for the common good. At this time, you are also invited to share your prayer petitions in the comments or chat so that they may be read aloud as we gather for prayer after the anthem. We are grateful for all the contributions of our Community members – for musicians and organizers, for those who tend to our young people and our elders, for those who keep us organized and those who keep us inspired.

Sharing our Prayer Requests

- Jubilee Café Guests
 - Mark Wood
 - Leo Wood and family
- Violence against our black and brown siblings
 - Jaheim Barbie/Pugh
 - Dr. Susan Moore
 - Andre Maurice Hill
 - Courtney “Eshay” Key
 - Alexandria Winchester
 - Kimberly Patricia Cope
 - Pfc. Asia M. Graham
 - Staff Sgt. Jessica Mitchell
- Residual trauma all black and brown people experience every time there is trauma against black and brown people in this country.
- People of our country

Prayers of the People

Your prayer petitions will be offered up. After each one, I will say, “God in your mercy,” and you will respond, “Hear our prayers.” As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God’s love and peace, and in preparation to be God’s love and peace in the world.

Let us continue our prayers. I will offer a category of concern and we will allow a brief pause, then we will respond as indicated.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community...

God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world...

Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic...

Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone...

Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in comfort, for Christ-like hospitality and generosity...

Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.

Holy and Living One, for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know,
hear our prayers. Amen.

Commissioning of the Community

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Hymn

Crashing Waters at Creation

NCH 326

Led by: David Willcox, Jeanne Ward, Xiaoyi Zha, Kathy Lee
Sylvia Dunstan, Christian F. Witt, GIA Publications, INC.
One License #A-734456

Crashing waters at creation
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.

Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
Washing off the chains of bondage –
channel to a life made new.

Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the One foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Well-spring, Source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

Benediction

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preacher: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Randy Ewoldt
Organist: Brian Clark
Director of Music Ministry: Kathy Lee
Audio/Video: Director of Campus Ministry, Rev Nate Brantingham
Audio/Video: Andy Contreras, Andrew Gupta
Zoom Room Greeter: Kent Henkel

CUCC Staff

| | |
|--|---|
| Pastor: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser leah@community-ucc.org | Parish Associate: Rev. Connie Bandy connie@community-ucc.org |
| Director of Youth Ministries: Jessica Smiley jessica@community-ucc.org | Director of Music Ministries: Kathy Lee music@community-ucc.org |
| Childcare Coordinator: Courtney Hayman childcare@community-ucc.org | Organist: Brian Clark organ@community-ucc.org |
| Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health: Linda Morgan lindamorgan@sbcglobal.net | Office Manager: Carla Rush info@community-ucc.org |

Your Ministry Team Leaders

| | |
|--|---|
| -Community Building: Peg Wade and Randy Musser | -Usher Coordinator: |
| -Care Team: Jeff & Tina Stovall | -Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade |
| -Prayer Shawls: Elena Kasper | -Clerk: Shane Brownfield |
| -Meal Train: Jennifer Robbennolt | -Moderator: Jon Ebel |
| -Driver's Ministry: Becky Sheridan and John Osborne | Past Moderator: John Murphy |
| -Card Ministry: Peg Wade | -Incoming Moderator: Elizabeth Shack |
| -Healing Music Ministry: Marilou Hinrichs | -UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola |
| -Health and Wellness Team: Doug Irwin | -Pastoral Relations: Cara Finnegan |
| -Finance: Roger Wade (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary) | -Personnel Committee: Anna Barnes |
| -Mission: Nancy Smith and Ramona Oswald | -Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): Grant Robbennolt and Kyle Mahannah |
| -Identity: Keri Evans and (pending) | -Buildings & Grounds: Tom Ward and Matthew Hart |
| -Children & Family: Julie McClure and (pending) | -Contracts & Insurance: Andrew McClure |
| -Worship: Chase Skye and Susan Pawlicki | |

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Nate Brantingham (nate@ucccampusministry.org)

<http://community-ucc.org/campus-ministry/>

Words for Hymns reprinted with permission under One License #A-734456. All rights reserved. (4/21)
 Words for Hymns reprinted with permission under CCLI Music Copyright License #3154689. All rights reserved (10/21)
 Words for Convergence Songs reprinted with permission under Convergence Music Project License #100002047. (10/21)
 Video clips shown with permission under CVLI License #504305331 (12/21)
 Worship streamed live on Zoom and Facebook Live with permission under CCLI Streaming License #20117321 (3/21)

Community United Church of Christ

805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: (217) 344-5091 ~ Website: www.community-ucc.org ~ Email: info@community-ucc.org

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 10, 2021

Mark 1:4-11

**The Baptism of Christ
Defining Moments**

A rite of passage is a defining moment. Standing in the moment between two ages or phases of life, a rite of passage defines both who we were before the ritual and who we will become after it is completed. Anthropologists and theologians both know that we need rites of passage not only to know who we are individually but also to know who we are as part of our community. Without rites of passage, we cease to have these vital markers of our self and communal definition.

Baptism is a rite of passage for us, as it was for Jesus. Jesus goes to the river Jordan, where his cousin John is baptizing and calling for repentance or turning from sin. In the hundreds of pieces of art depicting this scene, we most often see Jesus alone with John - and sometimes the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. But Jesus was hardly alone. The scripture tells us that *everyone* in Jerusalem was there, along with many from the countryside. There would have been a giant crowd with Jesus, to take part in and witness this important rite of passage.

Many cultures and religions, including the Judaism of John and Jesus' time had a ritual of washing. Jesus' baptism was an evolution of that ancient rite. It was not meant to replace the old ritual, but the meaning shifted to accommodate new understandings about God, society, and individuals.

Think about the rites of passage in your own life. Consider the times when you made a change from one stage or age to another. Who was there to witness and to participate? How did the presence of the wider community help you feel God's presence? In our changing time, how have new rites of passage grown out of old ones?



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2021 United Church of Christ

BUL0206