



Community UCC, 805 South 6th Street, Champaign, IL 61820
Epiphany 3B
Live Stream Service
January 17, 2021



Community UCC

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



Champaign, Illinois

Epiphany 3B

January 17, 2021

Gathering Music

God's Eye is On the Sparrow

NCH 475

Led by: Jennifer Kew, Kathy Lee

Words by Civilla D. Martin, Music by Charles H. Gabreil
One License #A-734456

Welcome and a Word about Worship

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Thoughts before Worship:

Today at Community United Church of Christ we continue our Epiphany season worship series "God is Holding your Life." This morning, we read Psalm 139, focusing on the question, 'Where can I go?' Psalms are just poems, really, ancient poems about an ancient people's relationship to God. The Hebrew poets made sure to highlight that their God was not one so high and mighty that the people could not "know" God and be known fully and wonderfully. This distinction set Yahweh apart from the gods of their neighbors. Such a direct, intimate relationship is demonstrated in Psalm 139 with the Hebrew root "yada." It is used over and over again—pointing to a kind of "knowing" that is certain, familiar, and confidence in relationship. This is the kind of relationship we have with God – woven together and fully known. If we are made in the image of this kind of knowing, what will it take for us to weave together those kind of relationships with one another? That's one of the questions we will ask today. So, as we begin worship, we welcome you. Who are we? We are young and old and middle age. 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

Brian Clark

Call to Worship

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

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

I Sing as I Arise Today

NCH 83 v 1-3

Led by: Elena Negruta
Words Attrib. to St. Patrick
Music William Rowan
One License #A-734456

*I sing as I arise today!
I call on my Creator's might:
The will of God to be my guide,
The eye of God to be my sight,

The word of God to be my speech,
The hand of God to be my stay,
The shield of God to be my strength,
The path of God to be my way.*

*Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia.*

Prayer

Jennifer Cromley

Let us pray: Dear and Near God, you never leave our side. Open us this day to feeling and knowing your presence deep in our hearts so that we might show forth love with the same confidence, offering your reign of right relationship on earth as it is in heaven.

We praise you for your close attention, holding our lives together in care. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

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. (you can unmute now)

And also with you.

Children's Moment

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

This morning, there's no formal Children's Message, just the reminder that you are ALL invited to use the Illustrated Ministries resources that Carla emailed to you. Use them and enjoy them.

(after Children's Moment, children 6th – 12th 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)

Celebration of Rev. Nate Brantingham's first anniversary with UCC Campus Ministry

David Gerstenecker

Prelude to Scripture

Jennifer Cromley

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.

ADONAI, you've searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up,
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting places;
and are acquainted with all of my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips;
but you, O God, know it altogether.
You press upon me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
it is so high I cannot attain it!

Where can I go then from your Spirit,
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning,
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand will lead me,
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"
darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
darkness and light to you are both alike.

You created my inmost being
and stitched me together in my mother's womb.
For all these mysteries I thank you—
for the wonder of myself,
for the wonder of your works—
my soul knows it well.
My frame was not hidden from you
while I was being made in that secret place,
knitted together in the depths of the earth;
your eyes saw my body even there.

All of my days
were written in your book,
all of them planned
before even the first of them came to be.

How precious your thoughts are to me, ADONAI!
How impossible to number them!
I could no more count them
than I could count the sand.
But suppose I could?
You would still be with me!

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

Where can I Go?

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Hymn

Precious Lord

NCH 472

Led by: Megan Krejci, David Willcox, Xiaoyi Zha

Words and music by Thomas A. Dorsey

One License #A-734456

*Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When the shadows appear and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

Call to Offering and Call to Prayer

Jennifer Cromley

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 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.

Anthem

God of Love, We've Known Division

Megan Krejci, Elena Negruta,

David Willcox, Xiaoyi Zha

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Harmonization by Christopher Gage

Beach Spring attrib: B. F. White

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
- Tyianna Alexander
- 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

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

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 pray

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

Go My Children with My Blessing

NCH 82 v 1 - 2

Led by: Elena Kasper, Kathy Lee, Brin Schuler, David Willcox, Larry Lee, Jeanne Ward

Jaroslav J. Vajda, Traditional Welsh melody

One License #A-734456

*Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
 Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
 In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
 Go, my children, with my blessing - You are my own.*

*Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
 Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
 Here my Spirit's power filled you; here with tender comfort stilled you;
 Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.*

Benediction

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preacher: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Jennifer Cromley
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/>

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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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 17, 2021

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Known and Loved

**O Lord, you have searched me and known me.*

My God, you see and understand all that I am.

*You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.*

You know even my most hidden thoughts.

*You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.*

When I work, when I sleep, you are with me.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

When I speak, you know what I'm going to say before I do.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

You are everywhere, even right here with me!

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

I cannot imagine how you think or feel or create. You are so vast.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

And yet, you are close by, too. Always giving birth, always making new.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

You even made this sacred body that I call home.

*My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

You know how I was made because you made me!

*In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.*

You write the past, you sculpt the future.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I cannot weigh or measure you, God,

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

I only know that wherever I am, you are too. And that is enough.

**Italics from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18*



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