



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Christ

Champaign, Illinois Epiphany and Baptism of
January 9, 2022

Thoughts Before Worship:

"Baptism teaches us who we are – God's beloved children – and confers upon us the promise of God's unconditional regard. In an era when so many of the traditional elements of identity-construction have been diminished* – we change jobs and careers with frequency, most of us have multiple residences rather grown up and live in a single community, fewer families remain intact – there is a craving to figure out just who we are. In response to this craving and need, baptism reminds us that we discover who we are in relation to whose we are, God's beloved children. We belong to God's family, and baptism is a tangible sign of that." – Rev. David Lose

*Pastor Leah's note: maybe that diminishing is a good thing -- the diminishing of traditional elements is a good thing in instances of traditions that are not life-giving.

If you have requests to add to the prayer list (a public document), go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found in the bulletin or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Gathering Music

Aaron Ames

Welcome

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Prelude

Galilean Waters

Aaron Ames

Sylvia K. Riggs

One License Song #1012753. One License #A-734456

Call to Worship

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser, Susan Pawlicki

Listen up, everyone! God has given us a thing to do.

God has called each of us before we were even born.

It was God who named us.

It is God who claims us.

Arise! Your light has come! The glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Lift up your eyes and look around; gather together, all of you!

You shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice. Abundance shall come to you.

We shall proclaim the praise of the LORD!

Invocation

Susan Pawlicki

As we gather for worship this morning, O Holy One, we trust that you, Emmanuel, are with us. Open our hearts, renew our minds, strengthen our hands, fortify our feet in this time of worship. We pray and praise your Holy Name. Amen.

Receiving our Epiphany Word for 2022

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

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!

Note: Our worship services are live streamed. If you prefer not to have the back of your head seen on the live stream worship please do not sit in the first seven pews on the left side (organ/piano) of the sanctuary.

Note 2: The congregation responds to the liturgy parts in **BOLD**

*Everyone is invited to stand in body or in spirit.

***Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Today, you are invited to remain in your space, turn and greet those around you, make eye contact across the room and flash a peace sign, or say "Peace" in the comments on Zoom or Facebook Live broadcast.

Children's Moment

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Prelude to Scripture

Susan Pawlicki

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

Sacred Reading from the Original Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Postlude to Scripture

Susan Pawlicki

We conclude this sacred reading with this prayer: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

Call to Prayer

Susan Pawlicki



After the sermon, we will pray together and offer up our joys and concerns. Your prayer requests will be offered aloud. Whether you are sitting here in the sanctuary, or worshipping with us remotely, you are invited to add your joys and concerns to the prayer list: go to community-ucc.org/pray (a Google Form), or scan the QR code found here or there are prayer cards on the table at the back of the sanctuary that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Anthem*O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion*

Kathy Lee

G. F. Handel
From the Messiah, public domain**Message***What Glory Have YOU Seen?*

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Silent Meditation**Call to Offering and Prayer**

Susan Pawlicki

The prophet Isaiah says, "Arise! Your light has come! The glory of the LORD has risen upon you." We are told that we shall see and be radiant; our hearts shall thrill and rejoice and abundance shall come to us. In light of this epipha-

ny, which is for the good of the whole community, we are invited to give. Out this abundance we give. The ministries of compassion, justice, and grace that grow out of this church are only made possible because of your giving. May God bless all that we give. May God bless the giver. In order to give to the ministry and mission of Community UCC, please visit www.community-ucc.org and click donate. If you are worshipping here in the sanctuary, you may also place offerings in the offering plates as you leave the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns

Kathy Lee

Sacrament of Baptism

Music

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

NCH 351 v 1

John Ylvisaker
One License Song #88253, One License #A-734456

Litany of Light and Water

One: In the beginning when God created^{*} the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^{*} swept over the face of the waters.

Another: Then God said,

All: 'Let there be light'

One: And there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

Another: God called the light

All: "Day"

Another: and the darkness she called

All: "Night. "

One: And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

(Pastor Leah pours water)

One: The voice of God spoke over the waters.

Another: And the voice of God said,

All: "Let there be..." and there was.

One: The voice of God said

All: "Let there be people in Champaign and Urbana and Savoy, in the churches, at the University, in schools and hospitals, in their homes, in shopping centers and businesses, and there were."

Another: And it was good.

(Pastor Leah pours water)

Another: The voice of God came from heaven,

One: And the voice of God said,

All: "You are my daughter: Beloved. You are my son: Beloved. You are my child, Be loved. With you I am well pleased."

One: In the washing of the baptismal waters,

Another: we became light – light to the world.

All: And God saw that the light was good!

(Pastor Leah pours water)

Another: The voice of God came from heaven,

One: And the voice of God said,

All: "You are my daughter: Beloved. You are my son: Beloved. You are my child, Beloved. With you I am well pleased."

One: In the washing of the baptismal waters,

Another: we became light – light to the world.

All: And God saw that the light was good!

(Pastor Leah pours water)

Invitation

Parents' Promises

Parents' and Sponsors' Promises

Congregation's Promise

The church is the community of Christ, the gathering of people with whom we walk in faith and commitment. On behalf of all disciples past and present, we look forward to new journeys with you. We wish that we could promise you a world without fear, a world without pain, a world without suffering. We cannot make that promise. But we do promise that the God who made you will love you no matter what life brings and that we, as a community, will stand as the people of God with you, whatever you may face. Emalynn, we promise you this. Oscar, we promise you this.

Hymn

I Was There to Hear your Borning Cry

NCH 351 v 2

Baptism

Baptism Prayer

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for Oscar, for Emalynn, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as children in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend these two as members of the body of Christ. Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Bless these parents. Bless these sponsors. May *they* always show *their* gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Emalynn and for Oscar. Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

NCH 351 v 3

Affirmation of Baptism by Aspersion

Hymn

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

NCH 351 v 4

Benediction

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Postlude

Lord Be Glorified / Sanctuary

Aaron Ames

Bob Kilpatrick, John Thompson, Randy Scruggs, arr. Fred Brock
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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Susan Pawlicki
Ushers: Chase Skye
Greeter: Kent Henkel

Organist: Aaron Ames **Singers:** Kathy Lee, Elena Negruta, David Willcox, Xiaoyi Zha
Audio/Video: Marilou Hinrichs, John Osborne, Roger Wade

Community United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser leah@community-ucc.org	Director of Music Ministries: Kathy Lee music@community-ucc.org
Director of Youth Ministries: Jessica Smiley jessica@community-ucc.org	Organist: Aaron Ames, Interim Organist
Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health: Linda Morgan lindamorgan@sbcglobal.net	Office Manager: Carla Rush info@community-ucc.org
Faith Community Nurse Johnalene Radek johnalene.radek@carle.com	
Parish Associate: Rev. Connie Bandy connie@community-ucc.org	

Your Ministry Team Leaders

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

*denotes Church Life Board Member

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Reverend Nate Brantingham | nate@ucccampusministry.org
www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry

Community United Church of Christ

805 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, Illinois, 61820
Phone: (217) 344-5091 | Website: www.community-ucc.org | Email: info@community-ucc.org