



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Third Sunday After Epiphany Year A

January 22, 2023

Thoughts Before Worship— September 1, 1939

All I have is a voice to undo the folded lie, the romantic lie in the brain of the sensual man-in-the-street and the lie of authority whose buildings grope the sky: There is no such thing as the state and no one exists alone; hunger allows no choice to the citizen or the police; we must love one another or die.

Defenceless under the night our world in stupor lies; yet, dotted everywhere, ironic points of light flash out wherever the just exchange their messages: may I, composed like them of Eros and of dust, beleaguered by the same negation and despair, show an affirming flame.

An excerpt, September 1, 1939, by WH Auden

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.

Prelude

Aaron Ames

*Call to Worship

Our ever-present God dwells in the sanctuary and in homes, in public spaces and our interior lives.

Behold the greatness of the Holy One in the expansiveness of these sacred spaces.

We seek God's face on Sunday mornings and evenings...and throughout the week.

Live in the presence of the Holy One all the days of our lives.

We call out for God's grace, strength, and guidance.

Seek the face of the Holy One. Recognize God's greatness.

*Invocation

Together, let us pray:

Great God, we acknowledge your presence among us and the ways you connect us as a community. Make us receptive to your voice and instruments of your love in the world. Thrill us with your majesty and inspire us with your humility. We rejoice in this gathering as we bless your Holy Name in the assembly, gathered across time and space as your people. We seek you. We're grateful to find you. Amen.

*Hymn

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

NCH 70

Fred Pratt Green, Cyril V. Taylor
One License Song#00059, One License #A-73445

Welcome

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 1: *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.

Introit

Arise, Your Light is Come

NCH 164 v1

Charles Wesley 1736 alt; adapt. George D. Elderkin, alt.; Arr. Jeffrey Radford
One License Song#09200, One License #A-73445

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, how often do we turn toward ourselves or others for validation, salvation, and deliverance rather than seek your wisdom, will, and way? How often have we sought our own measure of greatness apart from the realm of your kingdom? How long have you waited for us to seek you? Forgive us, O God, and call us back to your presence, plan, and purpose.

Assurance of Grace

The One who creates us in the divine image knows how tempted we may be to consider ourselves more highly than we ought or more lowly than we should. The One who knows us continually reaches toward us with the promise of grace and the hope of mercy, faithfulness, and love. Receive God's forgiveness and restorative embrace.

*Passing of the Peace

As we share signs of peace with one another, you are invited to either to stay in your pew and offer a wave or peace sign to those around you, or to move from your space and exchange signs of peace with one another. As a church, we recognize that some folks may want to refrain from shaking hands. Respect one another's lead in this as we pass the peace. Peace be with you!

Anthem

The Lord is My Light and My Salvation

CUCC Choir

John A. Behnke

One License Song#CGA981, One License #A-73445

*Words and Music printed on last page
the congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the chorus*

Children's Moment

Call to Prayer



Later in worship, we will 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.

Prelude to Scripture

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 Gospels

Matthew 4:12-23

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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.

*Hymn

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

NCH 171

Cecil F. Alexander, David Hurd
One License Song # 07460, One License #A-734456

Message

Called Into Community

Call to Offering

When Jesus calls his disciples, he promises to transform the gifts they already possess to be used for the glory and kingdom of God. Let us offer our resources in following Jesus. If you are worshipping with us online, you may go to www.community-ucc.org and click donate. Our ushers will now come forward to receive this morning's offering.

Great God, receive our gifts of ourselves and our resources for the benefit and building of the kingdom. Amen.

Offertory

The People Who Walked in Darkness

Xiaoyi Zha

G. F. Handel from Messiah

Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

**We are grateful for the gifts of Rev. Connie Bandy who is writing pastoral prayers for our community throughout this season.*

Prayer Response

Jesus, the Light of the World

NCH 160, refrain

Charles Wesley 1736 alt; adapt. George D. Elderkin, alt.; Arr. Jeffrey Radford
One License Song#09200, One License #A-73445

Commissioning of the Community

*Hymn

As A Fire is Meant for Burning

Songbook 54

Words: Ruth C. Duck, Music: Attr. B. F. White
One License Song#00014, One License #A-73445

Benediction

Benediction Response

Goodness is Stronger than Evil

Songbook 35

CUCC Choir

Words from An African Prayer Book Selected by Desmond Tutu Music: John L. Bell
One License Song#02636, One License #A-73445

Postlude

Aaron Ames

Acknowledgement:

Recognize Greatness: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

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The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

Choir:

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?

When enemies o'ertake me, and evil surrounds me,
my faith shall endure, my faith shall endure! (*Antiphon*)

Choir/Congregation:

Antiphon

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion. _ Whom shall I
fear?_ Whom shall I fear? _ The Lord is my light and my sal -
va - tion._ Whom shall I fear? _ Whom shall I fear?

Choir:

To dwell in the house of the Lord all my life, to see the beauty, to learn and grow.
To see the beauty, to learn and grow. (*Antiphon*)

Know me and teach me and lead me thro' this life.
Know me and teach me and lead me thro' this journey of life. (*Antiphon*)

I wait for you, I wait for you, I wait for you, I wait for you, I wait and remain strong.
I wait for you, I wait for you, I wait for you, I wait for you, I wait and remain strong.
(*Antiphon*)

Choir:

Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?

From *The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation* (CGA981).

Text: Psalm 27, paraphrase John A. Behnke.

Music: John A. Behnke.

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Liturgist: Tom Ward

Ushers: Grant Robbennolt, Elizabeth Shack

Organist: Aaron Ames **Singers:** Kathy Lee, CUCC Choir

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 Youth Ministries:

Open

Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health:

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Faith Community Nurse

Johnalene Radek | johnalene.radek@carle.com

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Rev. Connie Bandy | connie@community-ucc.org

Director of Music Ministries:

Kathy Lee | music@community-ucc.org

Organist: Aaron Ames, Interim Organist

Office Manager:

Carla Rush | info@community-ucc.org

Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Erin Ewoldt*

Past Moderator: Elizabeth Shack*

Incoming Moderator: Johnalene Radek*

Clerk: Jeff Radek*

Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan

Personnel Committee: Anna Barnes

Community Building:

Peg Wade*

- **Care Team:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Prayer Shawls:** Elena Kasper

- **Meal Train:** Jennifer Robbennolt

- **Driver's Ministry:** John Osborne

- **Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

- **Visitor's Ministry:** (Open)

- **Health and Wellness Team:** (Open)

- **Hospitality Team:** Peg Wade*

Children & Family: Julie McClure* and Alison Anders

Finance: Roger Wade* (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)

Identity: Keri Evans* and Ramona Oswald

Mission: Jeanne Ward* and Kristy Brownfield

Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP):

(Open) and (Open)

- **Buildings & Grounds:** Tom Ward and Matthew Hart

- **Contracts & Insurance:** Andrew McClure

UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola*

Worship: Susan Pawlicki* and Tina Cowser

- **Sound Coordinator:** Roger Wade

*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

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