



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Year A

February 5, 2023

Thoughts Before Worship: Confession of an American Christian, based on Matthew 5:13-15,
by Maren Tirabassi

How often we are the salt
in the wounds of the earth,
flaunting our prosperity, hoarding it,
and destroying the tastes
of the wind, the ground, the sea,
by the trampling
of those great boots
we call our needs.

Or, with halogen beams
on our out-of-control truck,
we careen up the highest hills
searching the biggest city,
and singing, "this big light of mine
I'm going to make it shine
so no one sees anything else
for miles and miles around."

We have missed the lamp-lighting
in the valley places
where kindness dwells,
not so everyone looks at our light,

but that by our little light
a child reads a book,
an elder feels safe from rustling
outside the window,
or sirens in the streets,
and partners in love
cook potatoes, slice apples,
bake bread with a dash of salt,

so all those who are hungry
may come in and eat.

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**

Praise the Holy One! Be in awe of God!

Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's presence!

Fear no evil. Keep your heart firm. Be secure in God!

Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's protection!

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.

Arise for what is right. Be pursuers of justice.

Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's power!

***Invocation**

Let us pray:

Sovereign God, we gather as a community to worship you in spirit and in truth. May we resist empty actions. Let our rituals and routines hold meaning and connect us to you. May seek an encounter with you to receive your revelation and be transformed, healed, and renewed. Let

***Hymn**

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

NCH 181

Marty Haugen
One License Song #03185, One License #A-734456

Welcome

Introit

Arise, Your Light is Come

NCH 164 v1

Ruth Duck, William Walter
One License Song#07293, One License #A-73445

Passing of the Mantle: Leadership Transition

Introduction

Presentation

In the faithful service of those whose leadership is coming to an end, we have certainly found great reason for praise. Today, these people will pass the mantle of leadership onto those who come after them. But, with gracious spirits, let us thank them for their service.

Children & Family Ministry—Julie McClure

Worship — Susan Pawlicki and Tina Cowsert

Past Moderator — Elizabeth Shack

Care Team Driver's Ministry — John Osborne

Health and Wellness Team — Doug Irwin due to moving out of the area

Community Building Co-Chairs in Charge of Hospitality — We remember, with gratitude, the life of Randy Musser

Thank you for your service to our Community. Thank you for all of the time, energy, ideas and talent you have dedicated to our beloved church. Well done, good and faithful servant.

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Moderator — Johnalene Radek

Past Moderator — Erin Ewoldt

Incoming Moderator — Julie McClure

Clerk — Jeff Radek

Community Building — Peg Wade

Children and Family Ministry — Brin Schuler, Alison Anders

Finance — Roger Wade, David Willcox

Identity — Keri Evans

Mission — Jeanne Ward, Kristy Brownfield

Sound & Ethical Practices (SEC) — Shane Brownfield

UCC Campus Ministry Liaison — Ilsa Kantola

Covenant

Members of this Community who have served faithfully, do you now willingly pass on the responsibility entrusted to you?

Leaders ending their terms: We do.

Members of this Community who are continuing or beginning leadership roles, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for service in the ministry of the church. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve?

New and Continuing Leaders: I am.

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of God?

New and Continuing Leaders: I do, relying on God's grace.

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to serve. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will you rise in body or in Spirit and witness to the commitment we now make?

What a joy to be partners with you in ministry and mission! We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Passing of the Mantle

Prayer

Let us pray:

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. Give them new insight as we move into a systematic and infrastructure building year. Help them to be nimble in this ever-changing landscape in which we live and to faithfully follow wherever you lead. May their example inspire us and their work impact us. Amen.

*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

Let There Be Light

CUCC Choir
Stan Pethel

*Let there be light! God's words rang out on that day of creation.
And there was light for day and night, shining so brightly in celebration.
God spoke, and darkness fled from the face of the earth,
Filling all with marvelous light, new creation and new birth!*

*What is this light, this wondrous light, coming to us from heav'n above,
Shining that we may truly see all that was given to us by God's love.
God spoke, and darkness fled from the face of the earth,
Filling all with marvelous light, new creation and new birth!*

*Let there be light! These words still ring in the message within us.
Sing of God's grace, rejoice in God's truth, telling the world of God's sacred promise.
God spoke, and darkness fled from the face of the earth,
Filling all with marvelous light, new creation and new birth!
Let there be light!*

Children Sent Forth to Sunday School

Call to Prayer



During communion 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 in the pews that you may fill out and hand to the usher.

Call to Offering

The generous life imagines the possibilities of the kingdom of God realized through the sharing of our gifts. Generosity glorifies God and connects us as neighbors. When we give of our time, talent, and treasure, we declare our trust in the abundance of God's continuing creative acts and participate in the realization of the kingdom on earth. 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.

God of Heaven and Earth, receive our gifts as a deposit of trust in your faithfulness and a seed of hope for the flourishing of your kingdom.

Offertory

One Bread, One Body

Xiaoyi Zha

John B Foley, SJ & OCP

One License Song#230252, One License #A-73445

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 5:13-20

¹³ 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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

There's a Spirit in the Air

NCH 294, v 1-6

Brian Wren, Harm. Richard Redhead

One License Song #22423, One License #A-734456

Message

Keeping Commandments: be salty

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion (*Matthew 5:13-20*)

Come to this table, shaken like salt;
come to this table, tasty like salt –

**for you have preserved old stories,
and raised the blood pressures
of those who do injustice.**

Come to this table, with shining;
but also come with your tired old batteries –
**for you have illuminated joys and sorrows,
and you have been snuffed out
and re-lit again and again.**

Come to this table salty like sweat
from caring for the world,
and crumpled like a bag of fries.
**Come to this table, bright as a halogen headlight
and fragile as the candle flame
on a one-year-old birthday cake.**

Come to this table because whoever you are
Jesus told parables for you.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Words of Remembering (*Isaiah 58:1-12*)

We remember that Jesus quoted Isaiah
throughout the gospels –
for Christ came to lead followers
who feed those who are hungry
shelter those unhoused,
clothe those naked,
and comfort those afflicted.

Christ came to lead followers
to destroy injustices,
lift up those who are oppressed,
break the yokes of those victimized

and, at the same time,
stop pointing fingers of blame.

And we remember that Jesus
sealed the covenant
not in a fast of deprivation,
but a feast of hope,
sitting at a seder celebrating
escape from oppression,
and claiming that the new Way
is bread and fruit and love.

Prayer of Consecration

Spirit of Christ, shake on our lives
the seasoning of love
for Bread is Body
and the Cup is poured for all.
Shine on these gifts so here and so now.
Shine on our lives today
and give us enough for

everyone's tomorrows. amen.

Sharing of the Elements

For all your paths in the New Year,
and all the light arising on your way home,
Take this bread and eat.

For every meal you share with others,
and every sip you need of hope.
Take this cup and drink.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

God, now that we are fed, we recognize how many there are who need a lighted lamp lifted so high it may take several hands to hold it, and who always need a taste of tomorrow and a sip of courage for it. For this we pray in the words Jesus taught his Followers ...
Saying, "Our Creator, who art in heaven..." Amen.

Commissioning of the Community

*Hymn

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

NCH 573

Ernest W. Shurtleff, Henry T. Smart
One License Song # 15878, One License #A-734456

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

Acknowledgements:

- *Break Forth*: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.
- Communion Liturgy written by Maren C. Tirabassi

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Serving Today

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

Organist: Aaron Ames **Singers:** Kathy Lee, CUCC Choir
Audio/Video: Joel Caldero, David Gerstenecker, Oscar Tomkin, Sean Walker

Community United Church of Christ Staff

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Your Ministry Team Leaders

Moderator: Johnalene Radek* Past Moderator: Erin Ewoldt* Incoming Moderator: Julie McClure* Clerk: Jeff Radek* Pastoral Relations Committee: Cara Finnegan Personnel Committee: Stephen Kolderup Community Building: Peg Wade* - Care Team: Marilou Hinrichs - Prayer Shawls: Elena Kasper - Meal Train: Jennifer Robbennolt - Driver's Ministry: Open - Healing Music Ministry: Marilou Hinrichs - Card Ministry: Peg Wade - Visitor's Ministry: (Open) - Health and Wellness Team: (Open) - Hospitality Team: Rocio (Ro) Arroyave-Jamison and Dennis Jamison	Children & Family: Brin Schuler* 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): Shane Brownfield* and (Open) - Buildings & Grounds: Tom Ward and Matthew Hart - Contracts & Insurance: Andrew McClure UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola* Worship: (Open) and (Open) - Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade
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*denotes Church Life Board Member

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Reverend Nate Brantingham | nate@ucccampusministry.org
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Community United Church of Christ

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