



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Second Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

January 14, 2024

Thoughts before worship: “While Samuel’s call came ages ago, the truth is that God still calls. God equips all of us with gifts and graces, interests and talents to be used to bless one another. Whether in ministry or other vocations, whether in the household, in the community, in the workplace, or in the church, everyone has a job to do.... Answering God’s call leads to living one’s best life, to a life that fulfills Jesus’ summary of the great commandments to love God, others, and oneself. The question is: “What will you do, what will I do, what will we do, individually and collectively, to answer God’s call in our lives?” -- Alphonetta Wines

Prelude

Aaron Ames

Call to Worship

Invocation

As we enter worship, let us pray together:

Sovereign One, we acknowledge your presence among us. Stir up the gifts you have planted among us. Hold us in your care and present a mirror before us so that we may know ourselves as you have known us. Strengthen us in your mercy and let your grace propel us to renewal and righteousness. Lift us so that we might arise in spirit and in truth for your glory. Amen.

Welcome, a Word About Worship, and an Invitation to Check-In

*Hymn

Arise, Your Light Is Come

NCH 164

*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!*

*Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.*

*Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.*

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, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We pray together saying:

Holy One, in scripture, we are reminded that while all things are lawful, not all things are beneficial. You have created us in your holy and divine image. We pray to reflect your goodness in the world. We confess that we have engaged in actions and attitudes contrary to your kingdom, and we ask for wisdom, guidance, and fortitude to be the people you have called us to be. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Beloved creation of God, the Holy One knows you fully, completely, and loves even the secret places of your innermost parts. Receive the knowing as a gift of assurance that God's grace is sufficient for new life. God will abide with us as we strive to follow the way of Jesus Christ.

*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!

Children's Message

Anthem

Good Trouble

CUCC Choir

*This day has challenged us to make good trouble,
To make good trouble, to make good trouble.
This day has challenged us to make good trouble,
To make this world a better place.*

*When the world seems lost and torn, more than we can bear,
We find strength to carry on, turning from despair.
We shall never be afraid, fear and lies will cease,
As we struggle day by day, we seek love and peace.*

This day has challenged us to make good trouble...

*Marching forth and bound with love, walk this way of life,
Joined together, we have come to banish hate and strife.
Make some noise and spread the word: change is on the way.
Hope is here, we're challenged now, night has turned today!*

This day has challenged us to make good trouble...

Call to Prayer



After the sermon, 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 Original Testament

1 Samuel 3:1-20

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." ' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' ¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' ¹⁷Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

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

Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name

NCH 604

Hush, Hush, Somebody's callin' my name.

Hush, Hush, Somebody's callin' my name.

Oh, Hush, Hush, Somebody's callin' my name.

O my God, O my God, what shall I do?

What shall I do?

Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's callin' my name.

Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's callin' my name.

Oh, Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's callin' my name.

O my God, O my God, what shall I do?

What shall I do?

I'm so glad trouble won't last always.

I'm so glad trouble won't last always.

Oh, I'm so glad trouble won't last always.

O my God, O my God, what shall I do?

What shall I do?

Sermon

Silent Meditation

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Prayer Response

Hear Our Prayer, O God

CUCC Choir

Call to Offering



The generous life rests on gratitude and trust in God's abundance. As we give, we acknowledge that we have communally received more than enough to meet our collective needs. Our offerings serve to realize the reign of God's kingdom on the earth. As our ushers come forward to receive this morning's offering, know that you can also give by going to www.community-ucc.org and selecting whichever option you would like to give to then clicking "give".

Offertory

Alleluia

Elena Negruta

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

NCH 780

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost
Amen*

Prayer of Dedication

Let us dedicate all that we offer to God, saying:

Generous God, cultivate and nurture gratitude and trust in us. May our gifts be used for the benefit of the kingdom and all creation in your name. Amen.

Commissioning of the Community

*Hymn

Here I Am Lord

Songbook 65

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.*

*I will give my life to them, Whom shall I send?
Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart*

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Amen, Amen

NCH 161

Refrain:

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

Postlude

Aaron Ames

Please join us in the Parlor for the after party.

Acknowledgements

Invocation, Prayer of Confession. Declaration of Forgiveness, Call to Offering, and Prayer of Dedication based on Worship Ways
Worship Resources for The United Church of Christ, , written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology,
United Church of Christ

Anthem, "Good Trouble," Thomas Keesecker

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Pastoral Prayer, written by Rev. Connie Bandy

Prayer Response, "Hear Our Prayer, O God," Paul Hamil

Offertory, "Alleluia from Exsultate, jubilate," by W. A. Mozart

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preacher & President: Rev. Connie Bandy, Minister Emeritus
Liturgist: Johnalene Radek
Usher: Tom Ward, Peg Wade

Organist: Aaron Ames **Singers:** Kathy Lee, CUCC Choir
Audio/Video: David Gerstenecker, Marilou Hinrichs, Roger Wade

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Your Ministry Team Leaders

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*denotes Church Life Board Member

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Community United Church of Christ

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