



# Community UCC

*We're worth our words*

Welcoming Progressive Community

*Vibrant Messengers of Hope*



Champaign, Illinois

Transfiguration of our Lord, Year B

February 11, 2024

**Thoughts before worship:** — “God places us in the world as his fellow workers-agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, that there will be more laughter and joy, that there will be more togetherness in God's world.” —Desmond Tutu

## Prelude

Aaron Ames

## Call to Worship

***Spirit, take us home take us home by another way  
take us long way 'round the tyrants and their schemes,  
Give us strength to walk Show us dreams of a better day  
and we'll pave the way with justice. going home by another way.***

From the rising of the sun to its setting God speaks to us and summons us.

God gathers us in covenant, God's glory shines forth.

Let us worship God!

## Chorus

## Invocation

As we enter worship, let us pray together:

**Mighty God, you call to us. You call to the heavens and to the earth in covenant. And so we call to you: be present as we worship. Gather us, that we may hear your voice and respond to your ways of righteousness. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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

## \*Hymn

*Enter, Rejoice, and Come In*

NCH 73

*Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.*

*Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.*

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*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.*

*Open your hearts everyone. Open your hearts everyone.  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.*

*Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.*

*Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.  
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.*

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

God invites us to come to worship as our whole selves. God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:

**Mighty God, you call to us and summon us to live in covenant and walk in righteousness, yet we forsake your covenant and walk in ways of injustice, ignorance, or disdain. Your beauty shines forth in creation, yet we abuse and tarnish what you have created. May we be willing to do the hard thing: may we see what is happening. May we see what we do. Renew us. Let us receive a double portion of your renewing spirit. Amen.**

### **Words of Grace**

God's glory shines forth, and God judges with grace and with mercy. God gives us renewed life and our spirits rise.

**Alleluia! 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**

*I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*

CUCC Choir

*I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in His arms,  
In the arms of my dear Saviour,  
Oh! there are ten thousand charms.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above,  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of Thy redeeming love.*

*Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace,  
Streams of mercy never ceasing,  
Call of songs of loudest praise.*

*I will arise and go to Jesus,  
He will embrace me in His arms,  
In the arms of my dear Saviour,  
Oh! there are ten thousand charms.*

## 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](https://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 Gospel

Mark 9:2-9

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

## 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

*We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

NCH 182

*We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place, Where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain, Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.*

*Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the Flesh-joined Word, Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet: Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.*

*Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline, we, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, that our daily lives may prove us people of God we bless.*

## Children's Message

## Message

## Silent Meditation

## Joys and Concerns

## Prayer

### Prayer Response

*Hear Our Prayer, O God*

CUCC Choir

### Call to Offering



God's gifts to creation and to us are abundant and ever-new. Entrusted with creation's care and with care for one another, we share our gifts out of our own abundance. As our ushers come forward to receive this morning's offering, know that you can also give by going to [www.community-ucc.org](http://www.community-ucc.org) and selecting whichever option you would like to give to then clicking "give".

### Offertory

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hand*

Elena Negruta

### \*Doxology

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

NCH 780

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly host  
Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen*

### Prayer of Dedication

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

**Mighty God, you live, and you do not leave us. With these gifts, we do not leave each other, but use them in mutual support. Bless those who receive and benefit from these gifts. May they know your presence with them. With these gifts, our prayers rise up to you. Amen.**

### Commissioning of the Community

#### \*Hymn

*Take Us Home By Another Way*

Verses — Solo  
Refrain — All

***Spirit, take us home take us home by another way  
take us long way 'round the tyrants and their schemes,  
Give us strength to walk Show us dreams of a better day  
and we'll pave the way with justice. going home by another way.***

*The mountains and the hills made low the rough places made plain  
the despots thrown down from their thrones 'til only love remains.*

#### **Refrain**

*No offerings for billionaires to make them richer still  
bring all your frankincense and myrrh that the hungry may be filled.*

#### **Refrain**

*So when the Proud Boys and the Klan ask where the Christ child lies  
just tell 'em that you'll let them know next time you're passing by.*

#### **Refrain**

*So when things get tough and feet are tired we'll know it'll be okay.  
cause we'll pave the way with justice going home by another way*

### \*Benediction

**\*Benediction Response**

*Amen, Amen*

NCH 161

*Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!*

**\*Postlude**

Aaron Ames

*Please join us in the Parlor for the after party.*

### **Acknowledgements**

Invocation, Prayer of Confession, Words of Grace, Call To Offering, Prayer of Dedication of the Offering based on UCC Worship Ways, *The Rising* written by The Rev. Stephanie Perdew, PhD, Director, The Damascus Project, Shared Theological Education Ministry of the Wisconsin & Minnesota Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

Anthem, "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus," arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Sacred Reading, *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition*, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org>

Pastoral Prayer, written by Rev. Connie Bandy

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

Offertory, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," arr. Margaret Bonds

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## Serving Today

**Ministers:** The Community of Community UCC

**Preacher:** Campus Ministry

**Liturgist:** Campus Ministry

**Usher:** Tom Ward

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

**Audio/Video:** David Gerstenecker, Elizabeth Shack

## **Community United Church of Christ Staff**

**Pastor:**

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Open

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## **Your Ministry Team Leaders**

**Moderator:** Julie McClure\*

**Past Moderator:** Johnalene Radek\*

**Incoming Moderator:** Susan Pawlicki\*

**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:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Healing Music Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Card Ministry:** Peg Wade

- **Visitor's Ministry:** Marilou Hinrichs

- **Health and Wellness Team:**

- **Hospitality Team:** Rocio (Ro) Arroyave Jamison and Dennis

Jamison

**Children & Family:** Brin Schuler\* and Kelly Tull

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

**Identity:** Keri Evans\* and Ramona Oswald

**Mission:** Jeanne Ward\* and Patty Gropp

**Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP):** Shane Brownfield\* and Sue Fristoe

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

- **Contracts & Insurance:** Andrew McClure

**UCC Campus Ministry Liaison:** Ilsa Kantola\*

**Worship:** Mara Smith\* and Sebastian Major

- **Sound Coordinator:** Roger Wade

\*denotes Church Life Board Member

## United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

**Director of Campus Ministry:** (open) | info@ucccampusministry.org

[www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry](http://www.community-ucc.org/campus-ministry)

## Community United Church of Christ

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