



Community UCC

We're worth our words

Welcoming Progressive Community

Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, Year C

February 16, 2025

Thoughts before worship: "We are like the little branch that quivers during a storm, doubting our strength and forgetting we are the tree deeply rooted to withstand all life's upheavals." --Dodinsky

Prelude

Katie Barr

*Introit

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos

NCH 526

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos', si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.

Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos', Si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos',

Si-ya-ham-ba Oo

si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.

Si-ya-ham-ba Oo

si-ya-hamb' e-ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.

We are march-ing in the light of God,

*Call to Worship

Give glory to God!

Glory to God.

We come to worship with grateful hearts

Glory to God.

Give glory to the Creator and bow in holy splendor!

Glory to God.

God renews and rebirths, redeems and restores.

Glory to God.

We are refreshed and revived, blessed to be a blessing.

Glory to God.

*Introit Reprise

*Invocation

Let us pray,

God of our wonder, heart of creation: we are blessed when we feast on your Word: that Word which embraces

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.

us; that Word which teaches us; that Word which transfigures us;
that Word which grounds us. Give us your Word this, and every, day.
God in Community, Holy in One, may our hearts beat as one with your heart, a blessing for all times.

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

*Opening Hymn

When Morning Gilds the Skies

NCH 86

*When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a-wak-ing cries,
may Je-sus Christ be praised! A-like at work and prayer,
one pur-pose I de-clare: may Je-sus Christ be praised!*

*New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say,
may Je-sus Christ be praised! Let sin and e-vil fear,
when this sweet chant they hear: may Je-sus Christ be praised!*

*Dis-cor-dant hu-man-kind, in this your con-cord find, may Je-sus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth a-round ring joy-ous with the sound: may Je-sus Christ be praised!*

*Be this, while life is mine, my can-ti-cle di-vine, may Je-sus Christ be praised!
Be this the e-ter-nal song, through all the a-ges long: may Je-sus Christ be praised!*

Call to Confession

Now, if what we hear from the world is true, we would have no need to come before God. But in fact, the witness of scripture, and of the faithful, is true. God is to be trusted with every secret of our hearts, as well as offered our brokenness. Join me as we pray to the One who waits to forgive us.

Prayer of Confession

Together, we confess,

We confess what we are afraid to face, Blessing God, that the seductions of this world gnaw away at our hearts. We have more and more to choose from at the market, and so we forget those whose only choice is hunger. Our sense that we are your favorites causes us to make fun of those we are convinced are not. We are so consumed with saving enough for the future, we overlook those who have so little this day.

Forgive us, Heartbroken God, for thinking we are the center of your world. Pour your living water into us, so we might send down roots deep into your heart, and so become those people who are blessings to others, as we have received the gift of new life from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Words of Assurance

Blessed are you: for God forgives you and restores you to new life. Rejoice in this day and dance for joy!

Thanks be to God! Our faith is true, and our hope is grounded in the promises of the One we can trust not only on this day, but in every day to come. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

Anthem

Precious Lord

CUCC Choir

Call to Prayer

Later in the service, 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

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Sacred Reading from the Gospels

Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.
²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
²¹ 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.
²² 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.
²⁴ 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. 'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.
²⁶ 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Postlude to Scripture

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these of words for our lives.

*Hymn

We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

NCH 179

*We yearn, O Christ, for whole-ness and for your heal-ing touch;
too long have we felt help-less; our bur-dens seemed too much.
For-get-ting all pre-tens-es we make our plead-ings heard,
in hope and ex-pec-ta-tion a-wait your gra-cious Word.*

*We long to have com-pan-ions who trav-el by our side,
strong friends to call and an-swer with whom we are al-lied;
As we lift up each oth-er when strug-gles lay us low,
com-mu-ni-ty de-vel-ops; our faith and car-ing grow.*

*We need your liv-ing pres-ence, O Christ of Gal-i-lee,
a pres-ence that re-vives us and sets our spir-its free.*

No long-er are we fear-ful, your love per-vades each place.
Em-pow-er us with cour-age to claim your heal-ing grace.

Message

Rooted

Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer

Prayer Response

Christ Be Our Light

CUCC Choir

Call to Offering

Sometimes, we believe the gifts we offer do not matter. But when they are combined with all the other gifts – of healing, of hope, of compassion, of your heart – they can become rivers of grace and justice flowing through the lives of everyone around us. We offer our gifts to you in this hope, as we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. You may give online at www.community-ucc.org and clicking donate. Our ushers will now come forward to receive this morning's offering.

Offertory

Give Me Jesus

Elena Negruta

Commissioning of the Community

***Hymn**

When Peace Like a River

NCH 438 v. 1, 2, 4

*When peace, like a riv-er, up-holds me each day, when sor-rows like sea bil-lows roll,
What-ev-er my lot, you have taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though e-vil should tempt me, though tri-als should come, let this blessed as-sur-ance con-trol,
That Christ has re-gard-ed my help-less es-tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul:
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trum-pet shall sound and the Lord shall ap-pear, "e-ven so"-it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

You Are the Seed

CUCC Choir

Postlude

Katie Barr

Please join in the Parlor for the after party.

Acknowledgements

Invocation and Confession from Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies, <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Anthem, "*Precious Lord*," Arr. Jack Schrader

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Offertory, "*Give Me Jesus*," Arr. Moses Hogan

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Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC

Presider and Preacher: Rev. Connie Bandy

Liturgist: Rocio Arroyave-Jamison

Ushers: Peg Wade, Scott Johnson

Accompanist: Katie Barr

Musicians: Kathy Lee, CUCC Choir

Audio/Video: Marilou Hinrichs, Oscar Tomkin, Roger Wade

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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

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