

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship February 5, 2023

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Prayer in Preparation

All-wise God, whose saving power has come to us in Jesus Christ, grant that we may hear and speak the truth and do what is right so our lives may be a blessing to the world and lead others to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the * indicates when you should stand.*

Due to the increased number of Covid cases recently, we are recommending the use of masks)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you.

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

“XX”

xx

*The Call to Worship

One: We delight to draw near to you, gracious God. We rejoice in the blessings you have given us.

All: We lift up our hearts and voices in praise. We humble ourselves before the God of all worlds.

One: We gather to remember God's commandments. We seek for ourselves the wisdom God imparts.

All: The wisdom of God is not like any other. It draws us away from the world's agenda.

One: God sends us into the world with new priorities. We are grounded in the Spirit that we might be discerning.

All: We are filled with the mind of Christ. We are already citizens of God's realm.

*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Let the mountains hear our voices raised in prayer and praise, wise and holy God. We gather in this sacred hour to honor and adore you. We come humbly, claiming the cross of Jesus Christ as our sign we give thanks that you lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world's foolishness, and invite us to share in life at its fullest and best as disciples of Jesus. Amen.

*Hymn

“Creating God, Your Fingers Trace”

#335 verses 1-3

**Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.**

**Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's mysteries known or yet untold;
let water's fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.**

**Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.**

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

For the Child in Us

Pastor Lisa

Scripture Reading: Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:1-12

ONE: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

"Blest Are They"

Choir and Congregation

Blest Are They

Leader or All



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
her - it the earth. Blest are they who
shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,



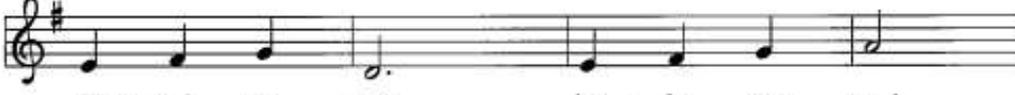
full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
pure of heart; they shall see God.
suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

All



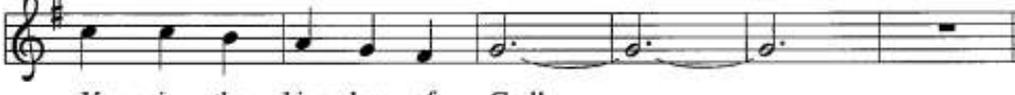
Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

Message "Seek and Find. How then shall we live?"

***Hymn**

"His Eye is on the Sparrow"

#82 vs 1 and 3

**Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come,
why should my heart be lonely,
and long for heaven and home,
when Jesus is my portion?**

**My constant Friend is he:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.**

**Whenever I am tempted;
whenever clouds arise,
when song gives place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to him,
for care he sets me free:
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
for his eye is on the sparrow,
and I know he watches me.**

Pastoral Prayer

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Invitation to Give Generously

(Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John's UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including in church, online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

***Doxology**

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

Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)

We devote ourselves and our gifts of thankfulness toward the realization of your reign among us, holy God. We pray for purity of heart as we hunger and thirst for righteousness and as we seek to be peacemakers. We rejoice in this opportunity to share in the extension of your kingdom bless us ad our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

One: We celebrate this holy meal because Jesus' ministry happened around tables: tables where the unwelcome were invited in, where the powerful were taught and humbled, where the hungry were fed and the thirsty were given something to drink. In these meals God's saving presence was revealed and made real, and a new form of community was given birth.

All: **We come to this table to meet Jesus, made known in the breaking of the bread.**

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Prayer of Confession

One: The world's wisdom surrounds us. It says: Look after number one...

All: Get them before they get you...

One: Better be safe than sorry...

All: What's someone else's problems got to do with me...?

One: Only the strong survive...

All: Money makes the world go 'round...

One: Revenge is sweet...

All: Avoid pain at all costs...

One: May God forgive us when we, as Christ's own people, believe these words to be life-giving when Jesus has shown us a better way.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Blessed are those who recognize the wisdom of God, and strive to shape their lives around its truth. In Christ God forgives us and restores us to the way of trust and mercy.

All: Thanks be to God.

Breaking Bread, Pouring Wine

Blessing

The Lord's Prayer (*In Unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing the Elements

*Prayer of Thanksgiving unison

We thank you God because you have invited us to this table. Here we are strengthened for the task ahead of us: the loving of the world. Here we receive all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith. Help us love one another and your creation more. Teach us to pray, share, sing, teach, feed, heal, call and welcome as you have done to us. Make our lives a form of praise for your love shown to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"Christ Beside Me"

tune #53

**Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me – King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me – ever to part.**

**Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me – King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me – ever to part.**

**Christ on my right hand Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me – shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising – light of my life.**

Benediction

Postlude

"XX"

X

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**
 Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
 Song leaders: **Kathy Scherr**
 Liturgist: **David Leech**
 Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
 Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**
 Handbells: **Erin Armstrong, Jan Boehm, Lee Difani, Matthew Hart, Lisa Hart, Barb Nichols, Scott Nichols, Ruth Notch**
 Chancel Chior: **Mary Bowers, Ellen Brandon, Rich Brandon, Jeanne Buchner, Don Duperrett, Mary Jane Duperrett, Carolyn Golfin, Susie Pisoni, Helen Stortz, Evelyn Weber**

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Announcements

02/12/23 Service

Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**

02/19/23 Service

Liturgist: **Mark Strothman**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Jan Boehm**

Global Ministries requests that we pray with the **Costa Rica** this week

A Look Ahead

February Lydia House Collection.

2/5/23 Valentine Luncheon RSVP due
 2/5/23 11:00 AM Annual meeting of the congregation after service
 2/12/23 10:00 AM Emmaus Homes speaker
 2/12/23 10:00 AM Council Member Installations
 2/12/23 11:00 AM Valentine Luncheon & Vintage Aprons
 2/14/23 All day Valentine's Day

Please check your **News Notes/Website** for specific information around **upcoming activities**

We pray for **Shirley Carmack, Betty Gschwind, Arland Stemme, A.J. Switzer** and **Paul VanDriest** Please let us know your prayer concerns.

St. John's Fellowship Committee is hosting **"Valentine Luncheon & Vintage Aprons"** on **Sunday February 12** in Fellowship Hall following church service. Lunch and presentation on the history of aprons. All are welcome. Please complete your lunch order form(s) and return to church with payment **by Sunday, February 5**. Forms are available at church. Questions? Contact Lynn Potts lpotts14@gmail.com

Worship Services

9:00 a.m. - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Worship
In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

St. John's United Church of Christ

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