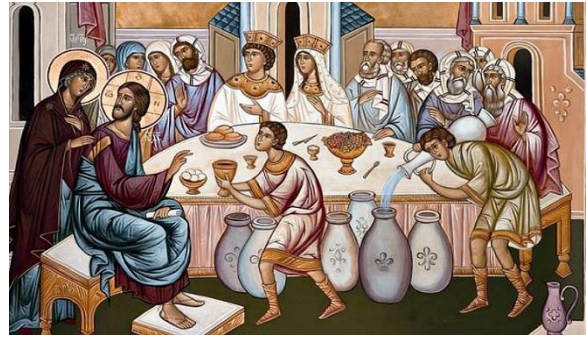


**Second Sunday  
after Epiphany**  
January 19, 2025



**We Gather in Response to God's Invitation**

THE GIFT OF MUSIC TO GATHER US

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AFFIRMATION OF MISSION:

We declare ourselves to be a Christ-centered Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming persons into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions, ability, culture, economic status, ethnicity, or family composition.

We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this covenant of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in church and society. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*RESPONSIVE*)

*\*An asterisk indicates when the people stand in body or spirit.*

*One:* Be still for a moment. What do you hear? What do you smell? What do you feel under your feet? Beloved, God is here.

*All:* **In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.**

Take a moment to look around. Whom do you notice? Who isn't here that you expected to see? Whether this community feels brand new or familiar to you, God is here.

**In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.**

Take a deep breath. We share this air, this space, this worship home together. In our breathing and worshiping in this time and place, God is here.

**In the familiar and unfamiliar, God is here with us.**

God is here. May we pay attention and discern how God brings us together in the familiar and the unfamiliar to be and become the Body of Christ.

**May we notice and join in God's work of forming us for community as we worship today. Amen.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock*

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

2173 Stoverstown Rd. / Spring Grove, PA 17362 / 717-225-6357

\*OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

**Magnificent God, we come to draw near to you. Your presence among us sustains and challenges us. In you, we find strength and surprises. May the songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the word we hear proclaimed, and the lives touched honor and glorify your name. We welcome you and pray that your Spirit shapes us with fresh wind, power, and compassion. Amen.**

\*SINGING TOGETHER:

“We Are God’s People”

Brown #546

**We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,  
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;  
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, And strong in Him we stand:  
O let us live transparently And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.**

**We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,  
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;  
Now let us learn how to return The gift of love once given:  
O let us share each joy and care, And live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.**

**We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,  
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;  
He wills us be a family Diverse yet truly one:  
O let us give our gifts to God, And so shall his work on earth be done.**

**We are a Temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place,  
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace;  
We die alone, for on its own Each ember loses fire:  
Yet joined in one the flame burns on To give warmth and light, and to inspire.**

**We Pray for Transformation and New Life**

INTRODUCTION

Before our loving God, we live in the tension between expectation and reality.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (TOGETHER)

**Gracious God, sometimes, we navigate that tension with hope and clarity. At other times, we fester in doubt, disappointment, and uncertainty. Help us to release our need to control and enable us to embrace the possibilities. May our trust in your goodness and the power you have poured into us embolden our faith.**

*Time of silent reflection.*

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

Beloved, know that God's grace meets us at our point of need with encouragement. Circumstances change, and that's the nature of God's creative work. Receive the gift of new life with the unexpected experiences it brings. God is with you and equips you for the journey.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Spirit who named Jesus "beloved," also calls us "beloved." In God's love through Christ we can find peace with God, ourselves, neighbors, strangers, and God's creation. The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

*(As a sign of our deep fellowship and communion with God and with one another, let us greet one another with a handshake or peace sign and bless one another with the peace that comes from being in Christ.)*

\*SUNG RESPONSE

"Children of God"

Sing! #195 chorus, vs 3, chorus

**Children of God, let's love one another. Love is a gift, a blessing of God.**

**Love one another, sisters and brothers. Love is a gift of God.**

**Let us bear witness to the Light, living in love, doing what is right.**

**Oh, oh, Children of God, let's love one another. Love is gift, a blessing of God.**

**Love one another, sisters and brothers. Love is a gift of God.**

**We Listen for God's Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom and do justice, and in your will discover both peace and purpose; through Christ our Savior, Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING

PSALM 36:5-10

*In praise of God's goodness. Our responsive reading begins.*

<sup>5</sup>Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.

**<sup>6</sup>Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains;  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

**All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

<sup>8</sup>They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

**<sup>9</sup>For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.**

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

<sup>10</sup> O continue your steadfast love to those who know you  
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

LETTER READING

1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

*The varieties of spiritual gifts. Our letter reading begins.*

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

PLAIN AND SIMPLE

“Each of Us Has a Special Role to Play”

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 2:1-11

*The wedding at Cana. Hear the Good News.*

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

SINGING TOGETHER

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

*CCLI Song # 14301; Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith;*

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MEDITATION:

“What is Our Concern?” Pastor Dave

SINGING TOGETHER

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” Brown #677, v. 2-4

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,**

**And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land:**

*Chorus: And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,*

**Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side,**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side**

**And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride: *(Chorus)***

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,**

**And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,**

**And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *(Chorus)***

**We Respond to God’s Word**

A TIME FOR PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

*You are invited to share joys and concerns we can pray for together. Let our sharing itself be an act of prayer.*

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ENCOURAGEMENT TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*You are invited to place your gifts in the offering basket as you arrive or depart from our worship together.*

Whatever gifts we bring may be transformed like water to the best wine. Trust God with what we have to offer. Our trust can sow miracles, reveal Jesus in the world, and magnify joy in our communities. May we give with the trust that God’s realm overflows with abundance and with hope that our collective efforts make the world new.

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

DEDICATING OUR OFFERING (*TOGETHER*)

**Holy One, may our gifts declare your glory and benefit the common good. Receive them with our gratitude for your generosity and the opportunity to participate in your kingdom on earth. Amen.**

**We Come to Christ's Table**

INVITATION

God invites us to come share this banquet table with one another and with Christ our Savior. The miracle of Communion means the rich bowing down with the poor, the learned with the unlearned, the clean with the filthy, the master with the slave, the privileged with the deprived, the white with the black, the black with the white.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst." In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

SINGING TOGETHER

"Fill My Cup"

Brown 481 refrain

**Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord!  
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;  
Bread of heaven, feed me 'til I want no more –  
Fill my, cup, fill it up and make me whole!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*RESPONSIVE*)

God be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God, mother and father of all the faithful, we thank you for the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

**Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty,  
the whole universe speaks of your majesty,  
O God, Most High.**

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

#### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Bless now both us and these gifts of bread and drink by your Holy Spirit, that we may be united with Christ and with one another as we share this sacred meal. Strengthen us in faith, so that we become a blessing to one another and to your whole world. Amen.

#### MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC

"Let Us Break Bread Together" arr. Moore

#### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives us.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks.

**Almighty God, we give thanks that you refresh us and renew us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Because of who YOU are and where YOU are on life's journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

## We Go Out to Serve

### \*SINGING TOGETHER

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Black #593, vs 1 & 3

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
God who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
God, who by your might, led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;  
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.**

### \*GOOD WORDS FOR GOING FORTH (RESPONSIVE)

May you be filled by the presence of God.  
May you draw from the wells of justice, peace, and righteousness.  
May you taste the fruit of the Spirit.  
As you make the way of Jesus your path in the world.  
And you make the name of God known in word and deed.  
Go, in peace and power to love and serve God and neighbor. Amen.

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“This Little Light”

Black #524, vs 1

**This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.....  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine,... let it shine,... Let it shine, oh, let it shine.**

### TAKE WITH YOU GOD’S GIFT OF MUSIC

### WE RETURN TO THE WORLD

### RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD’S SPIRIT

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*Fill, Draw, Taste: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*

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