

**Fifth Sunday after
Epiphany**
February 9, 2025



Jacopo Bassano, "The Miraculous Draught of Fishes" (1545), National Gallery of Art, CCO, via Wikimedia Commons

We Gather in Response to God's Invitation

THE GIFT OF MUSIC TO GATHER US

[HTTPS://YOUTUBE.COM/LIVE/EAVAItYEQ0c?FEATURE=SHARE](https://youtube.com/live/EAVAItYEQ0c?feature=share)

BULLETIN:

LIVESTREAM:

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: There is a good word for you if you are weary.

All: **It is the Word of Love, deeper than every despair.**

There is a good word if you have ever felt unworthy.

It is the Word of Hope, "Do not be afraid!"

There is a good word that needs to be heard.

It is the Word of Life, that raises up abundant blessings.

*OPENING PRAYER (*TOGETHER*)

Loving God, gather us anew into your net of love. Interrupt whatever overwhelms us with the gift of your renewing grace. Plumb every depth and reveal Your holy abundance. Let it awaken us to what you make possible when we risk answering your invitation to begin again. Gift us with the courage to

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

trust the command of Christ to put out into the deep, even when it doesn't seem to make sense. Answer our trust with Your promised presence, which reveals an ever-new rising. Bless us with this of You as we gather in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*SINGING TOGETHER:

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

Black #173

**You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.**

Refrain: **O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you I will seek other seas.**

**You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working. (*refrain*)**

**You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary,
A love that's willing to go on loving. (*refrain*)**

**You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
As loving Friend, you have come to call me. (*refrain*)**

We Pray for Transformation and New Life

INTRODUCTION

Some nights we labor in the shallows with frustration and fear, almost unaware that our gracious God is calling us into the deep.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*TOGETHER*)

Holy One, it is easy for us to succumb to weariness when our work has seemed to yield little goodness. Hope-crushing night can seem so long. Yet You call us to keep putting out into the deep, facing the reality of our emptiness. Sometimes it is of our own making. At other times, pressures beyond have submerged us to the point of losing our breath. So we release everything to you. We pray that Your promised forgiveness will continue to be trustworthy and true. Let it raise us up for some work of abundance made possible by your grace. We pray this in the name of the one You raised to life, Jesus the Christ.

Time for silent reflection.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

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Friends, hear the words of Jesus, “Do not be afraid!” There is nothing in our past that matters more than what God can do, beginning now. We are forgiven by the one who has endured the depths of death and has risen to ever-new life. Not only are we forgiven, but we are also sent to fish for others, whom God also yearns to gather with the net of holy love. This is the Good News! You can trust it with your life. 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

MINISTRY THROUGH MUSIC

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

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.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 6:1-8

Isaiah’s vision of God in the Temple. Our reading begins.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

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⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING

PSALM 138

A prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God. Our responsive reading begins.

¹I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

**²I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

³On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength of soul.

**⁴All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.

**⁶For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

⁸The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 5:1-11

Jesus calls the first disciples. Hear the Good News.

Once while Jesus^[a] was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” ⁹For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do

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not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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:

“In Deeper Waters”

Rev. Dr. Chris Rodkey

SINGING TOGETHER

“Dear God, Embracing Humankind” Black #502

Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways;

Reclothe us in our rightful mind,

in purer lives your service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,

The gracious calling of your word, let us,

like them, by spirit stirred, rise up and followers be.

O sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above!

There Jesus met you prayerfully:

the silence of eternity, interpreted by love.

Drop your still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;

Take from our souls the strain and stress,

and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of your peace.

Breathe through the pulses of desire your coolness and your balm;

Let sense be numb, let flesh retire;

speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

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 ON BEHALF OF THE 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

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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.

MISSION MOMENT

Lehman Center

Sally Kern

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.

Just when he was at his wit's end, Peter received the command of Christ, to let down his nets into the deep and trust what God can and will do. The result was a net-bursting catch. Jesus revealed the secret of a generous life. It requires trust that God can and will multiply our best efforts for a good deeper and wider than we can imagine. In bringing our gifts to God, may the same spirit that enlivened Jesus and surprised Peter be at work in us. And may it grow in us a deep joy!

DEDICATING OUR OFFERING *(TOGETHER)*

God of the bursting nets, we thank you for your abundant blessings rising up at every turn. Multiply these gifts and our faith that your good news of life-giving love may stretch wider still. Yes, form us deep in Your heart for this good and gracious work. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*SINGING TOGETHER

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

**I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back, no turning back.**

**Though none go with me, I still will follow,
Though none go with me, I still will follow,
Though none go with me, I still will follow,
No turning back, no turning back.**

**Will you decide now to follow Jesus,
Will you decide now to follow Jesus,
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.**

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*GOOD WORDS FOR GOING FORTH (*RESPONSIVE*)

May the blessing of the Holy One who has plumbed every depth, continually raise you up.
May God's ridiculous abundance stretch wide your heart.
And may God gift you with a boldness to bless others, awakening them to their beloved identity.

Amen and 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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***Into the deep: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Year C** was written by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.*

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