

ames UCC
United Church of Christ

Just Peace, Open & Affirming

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**No Matter Who You Are Or Where You Are
On Life's Journey, You Are Welcome Here!**

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16, 2014

*Means those who are able please stand

Songs: SP & P - Sing, Prayer & Praise; NCH - New Century Hymnal

Bold face indicates where the congregation is invited to join in saying the words

Ring the Bell

Greeting and Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Centering Music

"We Are Called" Liz Morse, flute

D. Haas

Allow the music to help focus your soul for worship as you listen in silence.

***Call to Worship**

We gather in the presence of our Creator, who sets before us the ways of life and of death.

We are here because we want to choose life.

We gather in the presence of Christ, who calls us to the Way of discipleship.

We are here because we want to follow that Way.

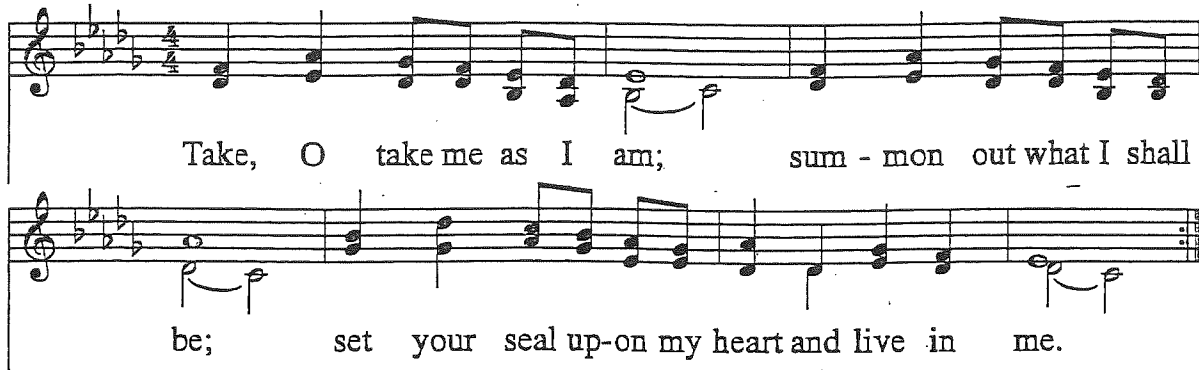
We gather in the presence of the Spirit, who sustains us in trials and rejoicing.

We come because we need that sustenance in all that we do.

***Gathering Song** NCH #349 "I Come with Joy"

***Silent Confession ending with: (3x)**

Ostinato Refrain



Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949
© 1995, The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

***Sharing Christ's Peace**

The peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Children's Message

"God's Love Letter"

Hannah Hannover

Sung Prayer for Illumination NCH #451 "Be Now My Vision" v. 1

***Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart--
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.***

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (p. 233 in the OT of your pew Bibles)

Matthew 5:21-37 [please read responsively]

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not murder"; and "whoever murders shall be liable to judgment." 22 **But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, "You fool," you will be liable to the hell of fire.** 23 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the

way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 **But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.** 29 **If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.** 30 **And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.** 31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 **But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.** 33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' 34 **But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.**

Sung Response

"Be Now My Vision" v. 2

*Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.*

Sermon

"Raising the Bar"

Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

***Song (back of bulletin)**

"We Are Called"

Dedication of Theologian in Residence Plaque

Presentation

Prayer

Almighty God, in Christ you called ordinary people like us to be disciples, and sent them out to teach and preach your truth. We are grateful for the extraordinary people who, through the years, have opened our minds and hearts in ever-expanding understanding of that calling; and we are grateful for those among us who have given time, money, and insight so that this program might continue.

As we dedicate this plaque, rededicate each of us to a lifetime of learning as we seek to follow you with all our heart, mind, and strength, in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Prayers of the People beginning with: (2x)

Ostinato Chorale

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

Text: Psalm 102; Taizé Community, 1982
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

The Lord's Prayer

Please join in praying the following, or whatever version is most meaningful to you:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering

“One at the Feast”

Craig Coutney

The gifts of the world, of this day, of our lives, come to us from God’s open hands. Let us now open our hands in gratitude.

Communion Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank and praise you, O God, for you formed the earth from chaos, you encircled the globe with air, you created fire for warmth and light, you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than mountains and grace deeper than the seas, you blessed a people and made them your own.

That we, too, might live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

The Words of Institution

Merciful God, send upon us and upon this meal your Spirit.

May this bread be Christ’s body, may this wine impart his joy.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

This is an open table—our Savior invites all to partake.

Prayer of Dedication

God, our life, our strength, our food, we thank you for sustaining us with the fullness of your Son. Send us now as Christ’s living bread, that our lives may nourish a hungry world; for it is in his name that we ask it. Amen.

*Song NCH #526

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

***Commissioning and Blessing**

The grace of God, deeper than our imagination;
the strength of Christ, stronger than our need;
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our togetherness; guide and
sustain us today and in all our tomorrows. **Amen.**

Sending Music

Today's Worship Leaders

Liturgist: Greg Lamont
Interim Minister: The Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore
Minister to Children & Youth: Hannah Hannover
Youth Director: Linda Hanson
Music Director: Lesley Lackore
Keyboardist: Karen Stewart

Next Week Sunday, February 23:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages:
Children's Sunday School: Pre-K (ages 3-5) & Rotation (grades K-6)
Youth Group: Meet in the Youth Room
Learning Center (FH) - Phyllis Tickle, Theologian-in-Residence
Sermon: Phyllis Tickle, guest speaker

Today's Ministers of Worship & Hospitality:

Deacon of the month: Ed Goedeken
Property Supervisor: Jan Breitman
Ushers: Sue Lamont, Nancy Clark, Shirley & Richard Warren
Greeters: Ken Birt
Coffee Fellowship: Jim Peake, Laura Swanson, Marianne DiOrio
Welcome Table: Lynette Spicer