
~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR TITHES, GIFTS & OURSELVES~

***DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:** (Unison)

All: Gracious and merciful God, we offer our gifts to you this day with open hands and open hearts. We know there have been days when we have clung to money for our security, to try to control our future. At times, we’ve been tempted to believe that in gaining more, we would find salvation. Open our ears and minds to hear the truth from your apostle Paul: we need only hold firmly to the good news of Christ’s death and Resurrection – it alone will save us. In the holy name of Jesus, our redeemer, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Shine, Jesus, Shine” TFWS 2173

~ CHARGE & BENEDICTION~

***L:** Remember the Good News that we have received and proclaimed this day; the Good News in which we stand and through which we are being saved.

P: We will remember and hold tightly to the truth we proclaim with joy!

L: Christ died for our sins, just as the scriptures said that he would.

P: But the story doesn’t end in death. Christ was raised on the third day, just as it was promised!

L: We are witnesses to this Good News and God commands that we carry your candle, run to the darkness!

P: We will take our candle, and go light your world!

Pastor: Jesus Christ, the True Light, pour out your blessing on the candles of our soul and sanctify them by the light of Your Grace. Grant that our lights scatter the darkness of hearts by the glowing of the Holy Spirit.

***POSTLUDE** “Sent Out in Jesus’ Name” Arr. Carmen Pena



FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Ave. West Bend WI 53095

Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany ~ February 6, 2022



*The light is the place where people find the grace to face the truth
and be transformed by the light.*

Darkness is associated with blindness, night, sleep, cold, gloom, despair, being lost, death, danger and yearning. It is a striking image of the human condition.

Light, on the other hand, is a striking contrast. It has always been seen as the answer, the antidote of darkness, and therefore a form of liberation and salvation. In light one is awake, able to see, to find one’s way. It is associated with relief and rejoicing that the night is over and the darkness is gone. In light there is life.

In this four-week “CANDLE” sermon series, we will carry our candle, run into the darkness and light the world with the glory of Christ. One church, with all her members shining, and all are one! May such a day come quickly!

Sue Fowell, Liturgist

Michelle Harrington, Singer

Rev. Clarissa L. Martinelli, Senior Pastor

“No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You're Welcome Here”

*Note: L: denotes worship Leader ~ P: denotes People

~GATHERING GOD’S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE: “What Does the Lord Require of You” Jim Srathdee Vicki Roth, Pianist

~ WORDS OF WELCOME ~

GREETING:

Pastor: Welcome! “Love never ends: Being the Body of Christ” continues our Ordinary Time Season. There’s a lot to celebrate in February because so many “pioneers” were born this month, including two “pioneer presidents of the United States: George Washington, our first president, and Abraham Lincoln. W.E.B. Du Bois, Thomas Edison, Rosa Parks and Babe Ruth were pioneers in their respective fields. February invites a sacred space for celebration, understanding and reflection of the cruciality and valuable notions of Black community. Come as we shower each other with love and strengthen relationships. Come as we let the Light and Spirit of Christ shine. Come!

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-339-7673

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~5th AVE. JUNCTION - WHERE FAITH AND FAMILY COME TOGETHER~

HYMN: “Jesus Loves Me” vs. #1 **UMH 191**

~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~

CENTERING MUSIC: “Cares Chorus” **by Kelly Willard**

*CALLED TO WORSHIP:

L: We light the candle as symbol of the three in one; Father, Spirit and Son calling us into new life that will lead us to eternity

Praise to God our Creator, source of our being and origin of life.

Praise to God the Word, love made flesh to dwell among us.

Praise to God the Spirit, shining light and rushing wind.

Come let us worship the Earth-maker,

the Pain-bearer, and the Life-giver.

Let us worship God!

*MORNING PRAYER:

L: God our Father, our Creator, who made the heavens and earth.

P: We are Your children, and we are in awe of all you have made.

L: Christ the Son, our Redeemer and Saviour, You lived and died for us all.

P: You live again, and have prepared the way for us.

L: Holy Spirit, the Sustainer, You move in us and among us.

P: We follow Your wisdom and feel Your presence.

L: God in Community, Holy Three in One. help us to know You more fully. Guide us in this time of worship.

P: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

L: Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are made new. So, let your hearts receive the outpouring of God’s love through the Holy Spirit and believe the good news! We are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

***HYMN:** “One Bread, One Body” **UMH 620**

*~WE PROCLAIM~

Mark 12:29-31 ~ The Message (MSG) (Unison)

Jesus said, “The first in importance is, ‘Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.’ And here is the second: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ There is no other commandment that ranks with these.”

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **P: Praise to the Living Word.**

SERMON: “DECLUTTERING OUR CLOSETS” **Pastor Clarissa**

~BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNION LITURGY~ (SEE SCREEN OR INSERT)

~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

Pastor: Come, Lord Jesus

People: and hear our prayer.

~BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNION LITURGY~

Pastor: Brothers , Sisters, and Siblings, this is the mighty feast, the joyful feast, the holy feast of and for the people of God. This table represents a level of welcome, inclusion, and imagery which can only be experienced through the power of the Holy Spirit. We have come from all walks of life. We have come from a life of privilege. We have come from a life of poverty. We have either come from a life of oppression or we are oppressors. We have come as financially stable. We have come with nothing. We have come with opportunity and new mercies. The one thing we all share at this table is that we **come**. Our prayer is that we come together because we are invited not by the church or the leaders but by Jesus Christ himself. This is the Lord’s table and we are humbly excited about serving here. Our Savior invites all who trust him to come.

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also, with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy. For you have called forth creation and raised us from dust. We bless you for the beauty and bounty by which each of us was wonderfully made in your image. We thank you God for the gift of the indigenous people of Ghana, Congo, Kenya, and Haiti. There are many other places not mentioned but acknowledged for your astounding creation.

It is in our rejoicing that we give thanks for your creation of these, your black children for their contributions to our being; Dr. Shirley Jackson for fiber-optic cable, for Marie Van Brittan Brown for closed-circuit television security, for Otis Boykin for the pacemaker, for Lonnie Johnson for the Super Soaker and thermoelectric energy converters, for Charles Drew for the blood bank, for Garrett Morgan for the gas mask and the traffic signal, and Mary and Mildred Davidson for women’s feminine products, the walker, and the tissue holder. Above all, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus, your son and our Savior. Because we are thankful, we sing! We sing your highest praises in one voice with the company of your saints who paved the way:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Christ was born fully human and fully divine. He shares in our joys and sorrows. He shared in the joy of our resilience despite the deathly terror of the African enslavement, and shared in the sorrow that his gospel didn’t compel transformation and quick abolition. He shared in the joy of the Emancipation Proclamation but equally shared in the sorrow of a people who

have worked so hard to override, overturn, and recreate that which it was designed to eradicate. He also shares in the sorrows that it took so long for black contributions to American history to be acknowledge and honored. Yet and still, he offered his life in obedience and trust in God.

We bless you, O God, for the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit leads us into truth, fights for justice and equality, continues to gather us as believers even in the face of adversity, and moves us to be empowered by your love. It is the movement of the Holy Spirit that allows us to trust in the life, death, and resurrection which reconciles us to you.

We take great pause as your people to remember all your mighty and merciful acts. We pray oh Lord, that as we take this bread and this wine as a gift from you that we may celebrate with joy and hope of the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Please pour out your blessings on this bread and this cup as we remember you, your gifts, and your mystery. Help us to be forever mindful that we all are Americans. Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Please accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, as a willing, living, and holy sacrifice and offering of ourselves, our whole selves, that we may be honest enough to live our lives with authenticity, truth, honesty, and integrity so much so that our very lives proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

On the night that he was wrongfully incarcerated, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it into pieces without the suggestion of privilege or supremacy. He gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, Jesus lifted the cup to those in need of liberation and empowerment, saying, “This cup is the new covenant, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.” Every time you eat this bread of equity and drink this cup that pours freedom, you proclaim with your life the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes again. (Adapted from: Rev. Amantha Barbee/Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

O God, with gratitude and praise you have blessed and fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us hope in the face of turmoil, to remind us that in you, everything is already alright. Make us children of remembrance so that herstory and history lives on in us. Send us from this place with purpose and in your power, blessed,

transformed and bent toward the arc of justice for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.