
~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

Pastor: Come Lord Jesus, People: and hear our prayer.

~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: Holy God of light and life that overcomes darkness and death: as we offer our tithes and offerings to you this morning, we pray that we may give the confidence and assurance of those fully convinced in our promise of Resurrection! Help us to experience our generosity as those who have no need to hold back. May we live our days giving freely with love and grace. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Gather Us In” TFWs 2236

~ CHARGE & BENEDICTION ~

*L: "You are the salt of the earth."

P: Sprinkle us across our town, God, across our world, to bring the flavor of your Kingdom wherever we go.

L: "You are the light of the world."

P: Uncover the radiance that is within us, God, to shine the truth of your love wherever we go.

L: "Let your light shine before others"

P: that everyone we meet may see our lives of worship and glorify you, our Father in heaven. Amen.

Pastor: You have called us, O God, to embrace the mission of Jesus as our own. Our sight is not equal to this vision, and our strength is not equal to this task. But you, O Lord, are a merciful God. You give light to those who walk in darkness, and you grant strength to those who carry heavy loads. As we return to the workaday world, let us see your light before us and feel your strength within us. Go, as a forgiven and holy people, to do the will of the one who loves us unconditionally.

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



FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Ave. West Bend WI 53095

Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany ~ February 20, 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!

Alana Dalton, Liturgist

Dave Bertelsen, 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: (Handbells) “All Creatures of Our God and King” Arr. Michael Ryan
Kathy Schneider, Director

~ WORDS OF WELCOME ~

GREETING:

Pastor: Welcome! Our Candle sermon series began with Decluttering Our Closets. The Monday Mediation is a daily reminder that our most important responsibility is to keep our candles burning brightly to reflect the divine light to each person we meet. The journey continues as we expectantly and boldly GO – Light Your World; witnessing to the saving power of Christ in our lives. Come, people of God; hold out your candle for all to see it. Take your candle, and go light your world!

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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” Kelly Willard

***CALLED TO WORSHIP:**

L: If the human body, body of blood and muscle, is to live, it needs salt.

P: If the body of Christ, body of peace and justice, is to live, it needs us!

L: If the earthly creation, bustling and blooming, is to flourish, it needs the sun’s light.

P: If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish, it needs the Spirit’s light!

L: Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

P: Our faith, our love, our hope —essential as salt and light.

L: But if salt isn’t salty?

P: It isn’t what it’s meant to be.

L: And if a light doesn’t shine?

P: It isn’t what it’s meant to be.

L: Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world. Briny and bright, we are God’s faithful people.

P: We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ: a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community, a justice-making people, giving glory to God!

***MORNING PRAYER: (UNISON)**

All: God of mystery and of judgment, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship. Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment so that others may see your good works through us, give you the glory, and be moved to serve you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (responsively)

L: Friends, hear the Good News! Christ nailed to the cross attests the cost of God's love and forgiveness.

P: Our faith is not built on human wisdom, but on the power of God.

L: Friends, believe the Good News!

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***HYMN:** “This Little Light of Mine” UMH 585

*~WE PROCLAIM~

Matthew 5:13-16 ~The Message (MSG) (Unison)

“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. “Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

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

***HYMN:** “Pass It On” UHM 572

SERMON: “GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD” Pastor Clarissa

~SALT & LIGHT COMMUNION LITURGY~

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Pastor: As we gather at the Lord’s table, all are welcome. Having a common purpose, we receive growth from the love of God, and nurture and nourishment from the body and blood of Christ Jesus. At this table, we are redeemed by God, reconciled to one another, and called to labor in God’s fields, where love and forgiveness are sown. The table is ready; the meal is prepared. Come, be fed, and savor the feast of the Lord!

L: The Lord be with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: And also, with you.
P: We lift them to the Lord.
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.

Leader: Salty, light-bearing, seekers after righteousness, all who love Christ and seek peace with one another, all who know the power of Christ’s forgiving love, come to this sacrifice of thanksgiving, this meal at Christ’s own table. Come as you are. Come to be changed. Come, offering peace to one another, and your gifts to God.

Pastor: The Light of the world is among us.
People: Yes, he is.
Pastor: The Spirit has seasoned us.
People: We lift our lives and our voices in justice and praise.
Pastor: Praise our Triune God with me!
Pastor: Honor and glory and wisdom and might are yours forever!

Pastor: Honor, glory and wisdom and might are yours, Holy Triune God, Life-Speaker, Law-Giver, Deliverer, Savior, and Lord of all.

Your love illumines the universe. Your infinity multiplies the colors, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes with joys that fill our senses beyond all overflowing. The diversity of your radiance exceeds all knowing. In awe and love we join our voices with angels and saints, martyrs and cherubim, with those who came before us, and the generations that will follow, in words ancient and ever new:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy. Lord God of every power, the universe declares your glory from everlasting to everlasting. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is Christ who has come in your name. Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Pure brightness of Jesus Christ, holy and blessed, to you we turn, before you we bow, behind you we follow, with you we go into the world- salt and light, fulfilling your law of love toward God and neighbor, family and stranger, enemy and friend. You have taught us the way of love in your life, in your death, and in your rising. And you have shown us such love in the meal you first shared with your disciples on the night you were betrayed.

You took bread and blessed it, broke it and gave it to them, saying, take this now and eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this to remember me.

You took the cup of wine and gave thanks, then passed it to them, saying: drink from this, each one of you. This is my blood for a new covenant that delivers the world from the power of sin and death. Do this to remember me.

Obeying his command, Triune God, and looking for his return at the last day, we offer here ourselves, with this bread and this cup, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for all you have done and will do to save us.

All: Receive our prayers, our gifts, and us.

Even so, come, Holy Spirit, upon us and these gifts. Make them be for us a sharing in Christ’s body and blood, and make us, receiving them, his body for the world. And make us one: with you, with each other, in ministry and mission to the world, and in joyful anticipation of that day when we shall feast at the heavenly banquet of Christ’s final victory. We give you all the praise and glory, Holy God, Source, Sustenance and Crown of All, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

Eternal One, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Now send us forth in the strength of the Spirit to be salt and light, enlivening and illumining every corner with your truth and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BE “SALT AND LIGHT” FOR JESUS.



Scripture - Matthew 5:13-16

Good morning children of God!

How many of you have tasted salt before? How does salt taste when it is by itself? Salt tastes good on food, but it doesn't taste good by itself. It's like this with us in the world. By ourselves, it is hard to make good decisions, but with Jesus in our lives we are good. With food salt is good and with Jesus we are good.

Youth today are more than familiar with the idea of plugging in, and most understand how important it is to have power supply for electronic devices. This lesson aims to capitalize on that concept - shining our “Christ light” on others, after first receiving a “power charge” from God, to whom we must stay connected first and foremost.

We are called to shine God's light onto others in the world, but that light does not come from our own power or ability. We do not give out of our own importance. We shed the light of Christ by first being filled with it ourselves. Because of Christ's love, life, and death, we have the opportunity to serve Him by loving and serving one another.

Materials: A light, lamp, or flashlight; glowsticks

Do you know what this is? (Hold up light or flashlight). Yes, this is a light! We've talked a little about what lights do. They can shine the way for us to see things, or for others to see. Lights show us what is around us. But you know, this light doesn't seem to be shining right now. Do you know why?

(Hopefully children notice that the light isn't turned on, and/or is not plugged into the wall).

That's right! It's not turned on. Let's clicked it to the “on” position, and it still isn't turning on. Oh, wait, it's not plugged into the outlet, is it? Plug it in and turn it on. Now it's working! It had to be plugged into the power!

Did you know that our Christian lives can be this way sometimes? God calls us to be the light of the world. Do you know what that means? It means that God wants us to tell others about Him, and to demonstrate His love to people. In the gospel passage for today, Jesus tells us to let our light shine so that others can now we have something special.

The Good News of Jesus is so amazing that we don't want to keep it to ourselves. We want to share it with other people. We want to let His light shine for all to see. We want to light up the whole world with God's love!

Jesus says to the people here, “you are the light of the world.” But Jesus also said that HE was the light of the world. Our “light” does not come from our own power.

This lamp, flashlight or light only shines if it is plugged in or charged, powered, etc. So, our light can only shine if we are connected to the light of Jesus.

We have to be “plugged in” to Him constantly. We have to stay charged by our power source. How do we do that? We can be faithful to read God's word, the Bible. We can pray, and pray continually. We don't just pray or read the Bible once in a while or when we are at church; we can do this all the time!

God always wants to hear from us, and we can ask Him for help in letting the light of Christ shine for all to see. Why don't we pray for that right now?

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I pray that I may be a worthy witness and become salt in this world to Your glory. I pray that my words and actions and all that I am will be seasoned with salt and that You would use me to witness to the goodness of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ - Who gave His life as the ransom for many - this I ask in Jesus holy name, amen.

