

# A SERVICE OF THE WORD

## "First Sunday after Epiphany"

January 10, 2021

9:00 a.m.

*"Remember that there is only one important time and that is now.  
The present moment is the only time over which we have dominion.  
The most important person is always the person you are with, who is right before you,  
for who knows if you will have dealings with any other person in the future?  
The most important pursuit is making the person standing at your side happy,  
for that alone is the pursuit of life." Leo Tolstoy*

### PRE-SERVICE

### OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

### TOLLING OF THE BELL

### PRELUDE

Gail Trenholm

"Break Over Me"

### SYMBOLIC ENTRY OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

Dominick Springstube and Rachel Guex

### CALL TO WORSHIP

(I John 1:1-4)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.  
The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

We enter this season of Epiphany and we behold the revelations of God in Jesus Christ.  
The early leaders of the church were bold to make this confession of faith:

**We declare to you what was from the beginning,  
what we have heard,  
what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,  
concerning the word of life----**

**This life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it,  
and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us.**

**We declare to you what we have seen and heard  
so that you also may have fellowship with us;  
and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ  
We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.**

## INVOCATION

Heavenly Father,

With joy we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and with awe we thank you for abiding with us throughout our lives. Help us, O God, to be a community of faith that gives glory to you. Help us to be a community of faith that shows forth its regard for each other. Help us to be a community of faith that reaches out beyond its walls as we seek to serve this world that is dearly loved by God. Amen.

## \*HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank”

(If you are worshiping in the sanctuary, please do not sing.)

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh:  
awake and listen for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings.

Let every heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the way for God within,  
and so prepare to be the home where such a mighty guest may come.

For you are our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick, stretch out your hand, and make the fallen sinner stand;  
shine out, and let your light restore earth’s own true loveliness once more.

To you, O Christ, all praises be, whose advent sets your people free;  
whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit ever more!

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

I invite you to join me as we come before God. Our confession of sin is communal, and it is also personal. Our community is not perfect, none is. I am not perfect, and neither are you. A prayer of confession is spoken with humility in hope for divine reconciliation. Please pray with me...

Gracious God, my sin weighs heavily upon me. My sin creates distance between me and you. My sin creates distrust between me and others. Lord, hear my prayer.

I have been taught to love, and yet I know that I can be impatient; I can be irrational; and I can even be difficult to be with. I don’t understand my own actions, O God. But help me to own up to my own behavior. You have blessed me with more than I deserve, and yet I am hesitant to empathize with the struggles of others. You have come among us as one who serves, and yet I still want to be esteemed by others. Have mercy upon me, O God, for my errant ways. Help me to recognize my sin so I may receive your grace. I pray in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Resurrected One. Amen.

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news of the Gospel is that Christ came among us to forgive, to redeem and to offer the gift of reconciliation. While we were yet sinners, Christ died and offered up his life for us. Glory be to God. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

**"John Went Out to Preach God's Word"**

(If you are worshiping in the sanctuary, please do not sing.)

John went out to preach God's word, to prepare us for the Lord.  
Speaking to the waiting crowd, He was faithful, stern and loud:  
"Brood of vipers! Would you flee? Now the ax is by the tree!  
Don't look at what others do; God wants change and growth in you.  
Live like children who obey! Bear good fruit! Begin this day!"

People asked, "What should we do?" John said, "Share your clothes and food.  
Don't take more than what you need; Live by faith and not by greed.  
Don't cause others grief or pain; Earn your bread through honest gain.  
Here's what you are called to do: God wants change and growth in you.  
Live like children who obey! Bear good fruit! Begin this day!"

**PSALM 126**

**Dominick Springstube**

Fifteen Psalms in the Bible are classed as "Songs of Assent." Psalm 126 is a Song of Assent. Years ago, people of faith made pilgrimages to Jerusalem to celebrate certain religious festivals. The psalm we're about to read would have been read as people made their approach to the city. Notice the spirit of joy and hopefulness in this reading.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then it was said among the nations,  
'The Lord has done great things for them.'

The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**Acts 2:43-47**

(Pentecost is the day when God's Holy Spirit came upon the early church. The story we're about to read is a description of the early church. People shared things in common, and there was a great amount of trust between those early believers. Listen.....)

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## SERMON ON THE STEPS

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Handbell Choir

"New Born Again"

### THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-18

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## **SERMON**

## **"WHAT THEN SHOULD WE DO?"**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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 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.

### **THE OFFERING**

Years ago, John the Baptist announced the coming of Jesus Christ. John explained that Jesus was 'of God', and that he was unworthy to even untie the thong of his sandal. When the people heard John, they asked the question, "What then should we do?" That is the stewardship question that comes to each of us. What then should we do? I invite you contribute as you feel called.

### **\*THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

The following comes from the Book of Common Prayer.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your son. Look now with compassion on the entire human family; and particularly this part of the family, in the United States, and those in our nation's capital; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

## **"I Am the Light of the World"**

(If you are worshiping in the sanctuary, please do not sing.)

(Refrain) "I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,  
When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun. (Refrain)  
To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
To feel the earth below, the sky above! (Refrain)  
To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength of good will,  
to see all God's children everywhere. (Refrain)  
To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in... an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colors of the earth! (Refrain)

**\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

"Joyful, Joyful"

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**GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**"We are a Christian Community Committed to Love, Service and Growth."**

**2801 Garfield Street, Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241 (920) 553-1222**

**Website <http://www.graceucc.org>**

**Missionaries:** Mark Knowles and Danielle Murry-Knowles, Serving in Lesotho, Africa

**Ministers:** *All the People of the Congregation*

**Pastor:** *Kim M. Henning*

**Associate Pastor:** *Colie Bettivia*

**Moderator:** *Betty Becker*

**Administrative Assistants:** *Debbie Augustine and Jean Schwalbe*

**Organist/Choir Director:** *Andrea Allington*

**Organist:** *Beverly Barnes Mark*

**Maintenance:** *Michael Timm*

**Sound Board:** *Bruce Suettinger*

**Worship Technology:** *Bill Heinsohn, Bob Randerson, Cal MacAuley*

**Song Leader:** *Cal MacAuley*

**Liturgist:** *Barbara Herrmann*

*Equal Exchange items to purchase listed below.*

**HOSPITALIZED**

Mandy Moolenaar was a patient at Aurora Medical Center last week.

Cannon Gandy, the newborn son of Candace and Montrail was a patient at Children's Hospital in Milwaukee on Friday.

## **BAPTISMS**

On Tuesday, January 5, three children, Cannon Gandy, Malachi Gandy, and Montrail Gandy were baptized. Candace Jones and Montrail Gandy are the parents. Mickey Veleke was selected to be the godmother of these children. The baptism was witnessed by Cal MacAuley, a member of our church's Diaconate.

## **OUR SYMPATHY**

Patricia "Patty" Dicke died on Christmas Eve. Patty, daughter of Fred and Helen Dicke, was raised in this community and later moved to Gulfport, MS. Cards of sympathy may be sent to Patty's twin sister, Pam and Mick Krieger, 6413 Hopi Drive, West Chester, OH 45069

On Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 11 a.m., a memorial service is being planned for Kathryn Kuhn. The host congregation for this service will be Peace United Church of Christ in Kewaskum, though it appears the service might well be held in an outdoor venue. Kathryn died on November 2, 2020. We offer our sympathy to Kathryn's husband, Karl; and her two children, Joshua and Clare.

Florence "Flossie" Louise Luecker died on December 29, 2020. A memorial service will be held at a time when it is safe for her family and friends to gather. We will keep you updated.

Catherine "Cate" Bleser died on January 2, 2021. Cate is the daughter of Helen Suettinger Bleser and the late Don Bleser. She is survived by a daughter Rosalee, a granddaughter, Camila, and two siblings, Jean Abreu and John Bleser.

## **"INSPIRED" BY RACHEL HELD EVANS**

Our Monday Adult Study Class will meet on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> when we will study pp. 97-106 of Rachel Held Evans book, "Inspired." We will also view The Bible Project's resource on the book of Proverbs. Contact Kim Henning at [khenning1956k@gmail.com](mailto:khenning1956k@gmail.com) if you would need a study book or if you would like to receive a Zoom link.

## **WOMEN'S STUDY CLASS**

The Women's Bible Study group will be reading the book "Discerning the Voice of God" by Priscilla Shirer. The cost of the book is \$9.00. The first class will be Wednesday, January 27. The group meets, via Zoom, on Wednesday at 4:00pm. Contact Debbie Augustine at [daugustinegcc@gmail.com](mailto:daugustinegcc@gmail.com) by Jan. 15th if interested in participating.

## **SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS**

Your friends at church want to see your face. We know you have been busy during the Christmas Season and we want you to share what you have been up to. Please send a photo or two or three of your Christmas activities to [gracephotos54241@gmail.com](mailto:gracephotos54241@gmail.com) by Thursday January 21st and we will put together a slideshow to present at the end of the worship service. the more the merrier, so please get those photos rolling in!

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST: JANUARY 31**

## EARTH CARE MINISTRY

The Earth Care Ministry meets, via Zoom, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00PM. All are invited to participate. Contact Betty Amuzu at [betty.amuzu@gmail.com](mailto:betty.amuzu@gmail.com) and the meeting link will be sent to you.

## EQUAL EXCHANGE

Equal Exchange has delicious items for your tastebuds. Our present inventory, while somewhat low is fresh. Available this week:

Mind, Body & Soul and Love Buzz ground coffee, \$7; 7 flavors of tea, \$3.25;

Baking and Hot Cocoa, \$5.50; Chocolate bars: Dark Choc w/Almonds, Dark Choc w/Orange, Dark Choc Lemon Ginger, Milk Choc Caramel - \$3; Plain Almonds, \$7 and Salted Cashews, \$6

An order will be placed later this week for more items. **Reminder - Valentines Day is next month!** Please contact me for items you would like from current items as well as what you would like ordered. Your order will be put together by the end of the week.

Annie Kleman ([anij.kleman@gmail.com](mailto:anij.kleman@gmail.com)) and Mission & Outreach thank you.

## COMMUNION DATES – DIACONATE NEEDS YOUR INPUT

On Ash Wednesday and again on Easter Sunday, we would like to share the sacrament of Holy Communion together. We can do this within the service itself with you providing your own juice and bread or we can share communion on a "drive-through" basis. The Diaconate is seeking your opinion as to how you would prefer to share this sacrament. If we share communion during the service on Ash Wednesday, you could receive ashes on a "drive -through" basis if there is interest in doing so. Please respond to the church office with your thoughts.

## ISLAM, CHRISTIAN, JEWISH CONVERSATION—FEBRUARY 1---6:30-8:00 P.M.

### **Sharing our faith stories to increase understanding and respect**

Fear, distrust, and misinformation have often characterized the relationships between Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities. Featuring a panel of Jewish, Muslim and Christian thinkers, this program will help participants understand forms of antisemitism and Islamophobia in American society, and dispel the biases that contribute to prejudice and hate. Featured panelists are Dr. Charles Cohen, E. Gordon Fox Professor of American Institutions, Emeritus, at UW-Madison, Dr. Sulfiqar Shah, Director of Religious Affairs of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, and Rev. Dr. Julie Mavity Maddalena, Ulrich Ethicist in Residence, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Chaplain at Lakeland University. The panel will be moderated by Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn, Grace Chair of Religious Studies and Professor of Religion at Lakeland University.

To receive a Zoom link or phone number to access this virtual program, please register at [Lakeland.edu/interfaith](http://Lakeland.edu/interfaith) by Jan. 28 or call 920-565-1023 ext. 2151.

**Coming to a church near you.** The Women of Grace are sponsoring a "Super" Chili Drive-thru on Saturday, February 6, the day before the Super Bowl. Proceeds will benefit all 3 of our church camps. Because retreats, programming and camping has been cancelled for nearly a year, there has been no income to keep the camps afloat. Your purchase will not only give you the knowledge that you will be helping the camps at this very difficult time, you will also get some great tasting chili too. More details to follow in the next weeks. Pencil in February 6 to pick up your chili. **Note: We are in need of 1-gallon ice cream buckets with lids. Please bring to church at your convenience.**

**PEOPLE WE WANT TO HOLD IN PRAYER...**

Gene Krueger and Bob Stephens are residents at Hamilton Home/Northland Lodge. Ruth Hauboldt is a resident at River House Apartments. Lesley Huffer is at Rivers Bend, & Bruce Huffer is at his home. Marian Duescher is a resident at Harbor View. Jean Sutter is with her daughter, Heidi Bender: 880 S. Madison Ave. Pasadena, CA 91106. Nicole Kellner is a resident at Arborview Manor at 1520 Arboretum Drive, Apt. 1120, Oshkosh, WI 54901. Bill Monka is a resident at Tender Reflections. Bonnie Burmeister is living at 2790 Elm Tree Hill, Room 301, Howard, WI; Ginny Posny is at her home.

**OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN**

Bracken Tadych (PFC4 107-1 Lilac Lane, Minot AFB, ND 58704); Jacob Hearley (5350 Berger Street, Stop 1330, Moody AFB GA 31699); MSgt Kevin Allie (PSC37, 19 Naomi Street Magnolie, DE 19962); Gavin and Emily LeGreve (1344 N Lafayette Avenue; Bremerton WA 98312); Hunter Hayes (Air Force, Tucson, AZ); Kaity Pietenpol (Pietenpol-Prueter, Kaitlynn, 4540 Carswell Ave Unit C-9 Nellis AFB NV 89191); Alec Dewane (PVT Dewane, Alec J. B Btry 2-6 ADA BN 2750 Miner Rd. Fort Sill OK 73503); Jimmi & Alex Anderson, 164B Lower Brick Rd., Fort Riley, KS 66442

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** today to Allison Bergman, Amber Bohman and Peggy Mueller and this week to Kevin Wargin, Kristy Sherrod, Lincoln Bettivia, Michele Juza, Judy Lango, Lori Waniger and David Waniger. **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** this week to Michael & Heather Krueger.

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

All meetings via Zoom unless otherwise noted

<b>Monday</b>	Handbell Choir practice (FH)	11:00am
	Adult Book Study	6:00pm
	<b>Annual Committee Reports Due</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	Trustees meeting	4:30pm
	Mission & Outreach meeting	5:00pm
	Cabinet meeting	6:00pm
	Earth Care Ministry	7:00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Confirmation (Sanctuary/Zoom)	6:00pm
	Generation G	7:00pm
	Adult Choir	7:15pm