

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
January 29, 2023



Photo by [Muhammad Muzamil](#)

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Ben Nichols

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter:

Liturgist:

**Gathering Music**

**Words of Welcome**

**Prelude**

## Words to Enter Worship (Based on 1 Corinthians 13)

People who like church meetings: Love is patient, love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

People who not so much: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

People who need every detail: For we know only in part, and we prophecy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will end. When I was a child I reasoned like a child, when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

People who need the big picture: For now, we see in the mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now, I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now, faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## Opening Hymn #584 I am the Light of the World

Tune: © 1969 Desert Flower Music/Jim and Jean Strathdee Text: In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman © 1969 Desert Flower Music/Jim and Jean Strathdee

### CHORUS:

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

1. When the song of the angels is stilled  
When the star in the sky is gone  
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home  
The work of Christmas is begun!

### Chorus

2. To find the lost and lonely one  
To heal that broken soul with love  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food  
To feel the earth below the sky above!

### Chorus

3. To free the prisoner from his chains  
To make the powerful care  
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill  
To call a man your brother everywhere

Chorus

4. To bring hope to every task you do  
To dance at a baby's new birth  
To make music in an old man's heart  
And sing to the colors of the earth!

Chorus

### **Words of Lament**

**Almighty and Amazing God, the early church had a rough time loving each other and trying to figure out how to follow you. It has not gotten easier. With creeds, liturgy, and budgets, everyone has favorites. With committees, meetings, and the pastor, everyone has an opinion. Speak to us, O God, and let us have ears to hear about the fruits of the Spirit, those who are blessed, and walk humbly. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **Time of Silence**

### **Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace**

**It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.**

Beatitudes by Amy Frazer

Blessed be the dreamers, for they know how to hope.  
Blessed be the mothers, for they know the value of life.  
Blessed be the faithful, for they know the power of prayer.  
Blessed be the wanderers, for they know the ways of the world.  
Blessed be the silent, for they know how to truly listen.  
Blessed be the teachers, for they know the joy of a child.  
Blessed be the lost, for they know how it feels to be found.  
Blessed be the joyful, for they know the importance of laughter.

## **Passing of the Peace**

### **Scripture Readings**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Scripture**

Matthew 5:1-12

**5** When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Children’s Message**      Beatitudes!

### **Choir Anthem**

**Message**                  Pester the Pastor

### **Musical Reflections**

**Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, Mother God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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**

## Our Time of Giving

### Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

## News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

### Closing Hymn #436 God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour thy power;  
crown your ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.
2. From the evils that surround us,  
and assail the Savior's ways,  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
free our hearts to love and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.
3. Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our reckless, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
make our broken spirits whole,  
make our broken spirits whole.
4. Set our feet on lofty places;  
gird our lives that they may be  
armored with all Christlike graces,  
In the fight to set us free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
in the quest for liberty,  
in the quest for liberty!

5. Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

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**Benediction**

**Sending Music**