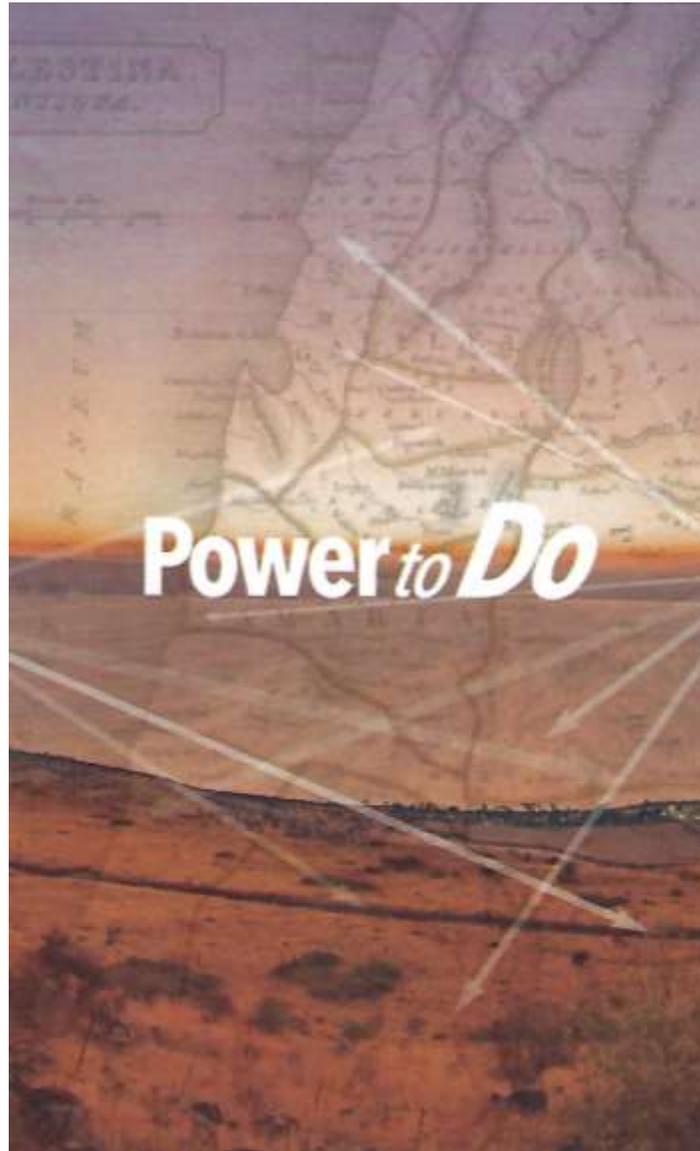


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
36721 Lake Shore Blvd.
Eastlake Ohio 44095 440.951.0291



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Eastlake Ohio 44095 440.951.0291

Website: firstucceastlake.org
Email: pastorfirstucc@gmail.com

*No matter who you are
or where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome and wanted here!*

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

Ministers - All of us!

Pastor & Teacher - Rev David T Herrin—216.832.3453

Director of Music – Jeffrey Jaskolka

Moderator - Diana Kurzawa

Christian Education - Pastor David

Financial Secretary - Donna Finch

Treasurer - Jim Lutz

Clerk - Judy DePasquale

Facilities Ministry - Charles Rumbold

Leadership Development Ministry - Betsy Taylor

Membership Ministry - Sherry Boyce

OCWM Ministry - Nancy Reeb

Spiritual Life Ministry - Betsy Taylor

Stewardship Ministry - Diana Kurzawa

*** Please rise in body or spirit.**



MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

The Message Version:

God, you can now release your servant;
release me in peace as you promised.
With my own eyes I've seen your salvation;
it's now out in the open for everyone to see:
A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations,
and of glory for your people Israel.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE WE ARE USING THE BLUE HYMNAL TODAY

Prelude ♪

The Little Drummer Boy

Welcome

Pastor David

Ringling the Bell

***Gathering Hymn** ♪

#182

O Come, All Ye Faithful

***Call to Worship**

One: The gate of heaven is opened today, for the Word of God has made a beginning in time without forsaking his divinity.

All: As a Babe forty days old, of his own will he is brought by Mary, his Mother, as an offering in the Temple of the Law.

One: The Elder receives him in his arms, crying as a servant to his Master:

All: “Let me depart for my eyes have seen your salvation!” Glory to you, O Lord, for you have come into the world to save the human race!

One: Come, let us also go to meet Christ with divine songs!

All: Let us receive him whose salvation Simeon saw!

One: This is he whom David announced; this is he who spoke through the Prophets,

All: Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and who speaks through the Law. Come, let us worship him!

One: As we end the Season of the Incarnation of our God,

All: let us praise the Still speaking God!

***Opening Hymn** ♪ #184 *What Child Is This*

***Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. In celebration we gratefully pray—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, for ever. Amen.

***Glory Be to God #195 twice**

*Glo-ria, glo-ria, glo-ria, glo-ry be to God on high!
And on earth be peace to the people in whom God is well pleased*

Right Hand of Fellowship—Bow of Namaste

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S MESSAGE

Hebrews 2:10-18 — Luke 2:22-40

Word with young worshippers and Pastoral Message

Hymn of Reflection ♪

WE PREPARE TO SERVE THE WORLD

♪ *Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.*

Prayers of the People—

♪ *Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.*

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all crea-tures high and low.

Al-el-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise God, in Je-sus ful-ly known:
Cre-a-tor, Word, and Spir-it One.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Holy Communion on Presentation of our Lord

Pastor: The Lord is here.

People: The Lord's Spirit is with us.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

***Communion Hymn** #136 *Holy, Holy, Holy!*

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy One, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth! You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have sent us your salvation. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to see with our own eyes him who is the glory of Israel, and the light for all nations, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. With a new-born joy we say:

People: 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.

Pastor: Holy are you, O God of love and majesty, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself to be our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide the wise to where the Christ was born; you showed us that he is the fulfiller of the Law by his circumcision on the eighth day. By your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to Christ's Light his baptism in the Jordan River, and his Presentation in the Temple. All these things of the Mystery of the Great Incarnation lead us to the night in which he gave himself up for us, in taking bread, he gave thanks to you, broke it gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **People: Amen!**

Pastor: Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **People: Amen!**

Pastor: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Love, O Lord, until you come again.

Pastor: With this bread and this wine, we celebrate the birth and life of Jesus. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, and make them holy, so that being fed by holy things, on this day as he is presented in the Temple, may we be presented to you with pure and clean hearts and may become the Temples of the Holy Spirit sharing hope and peace, joy and love with the world; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, now and forever.

People: Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Gracious God, now and forever. Amen!

Pastor: The bread which we break is a means of sharing in the body of Christ. And the cup over which we give thanks is a means of sharing in the life of Christ. Come for all things are ready.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We, from among the gentiles give you thanks for the gift of the Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Holy God you have poured out on us the new

light of your incarnate Word: Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives. May this light be revealed to all the nations of the world.

***Closing Hymn** ♪ *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

OUR CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

After the Closing Hymn, we make a circle around the outside of the pews for the Commissioning and Blessing.

***Commissioning** *Matthew 4:19*

May he who was taken in the arms of the righteous elder Simeon, and praised by the prophetess Anna, be an example for each of us in our lives as we look forward to living under the Cross.

♪ *Joy to the world...*

***Blessing**

May the grace of Christ who call us go with you. May the power of the Holy Spirit who empowers us sustain you. May the salvation of the Holy One who loves us give you peace.

♪ *Joy to the world...*

***Postlude** ♪

Questions for Reflection - How did you celebrate the Christmas Season? What did Advent teach you? What did the extended Great Feast of the Incarnation teach you?

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Join us for coffee hour following worship. We don't serve just a cup of coffee, we serve a cup of justice!

If you are interested in learning more about First United Church of Christ, or becoming a member, please speak to our Pastor or Moderator.

Please sign our guestbook as you leave worship today

Office Hours: By appointment.

Next Sunday –Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40.21-31

Psalms 147. 1-11,20c

1 Corinthians 9.6-23

Mark 1.29-39



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 31, 2021

Mark 1:21-28

Power to Do *Health and Human Service Sunday*

The book of Mark begins with a bang. Jesus is anticipated by John, baptized in the waters of the Jordan, sent into the wilderness for forty days of testing, begins preaching repentance and calls to the fishermen who will become his disciples - all in the first twenty verses.

And now, beginning in verse 21, we hear the story of his first encounter with a suffering person - a man with a so-called “unclean spirit.” As Jesus is teaching in the temple, “with authority,” the man cries out, naming Jesus as Holy. Jesus, showing the firmness of his authority, rebukes the spirit that is causing the man so much torment.

In this first healing story in the book of Mark, we encounter a person who was suffering as much in spirit as in body. When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe last year, the response to avoid infection was quarantine. While this tactic undoubtedly saved millions of lives, it resulted in another crisis - a spiritual one as many were isolated away from the love and touch of ordinary human interactions.

Health can be thought of as a three-legged stool. Mental, spiritual and physical health work together to support the whole person. The United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries understands this whole-person approach to wellness. So, in addition to providing timely medical and emergency information to clergy and congregations, the Council also provided a corner for tending to spiritual health. For example, The Community Care Space, a YouTube channel and playlist, provided guided meditations and prayers as a way to bring healing to the weary and isolated.

On this Health and Human Service Sunday, we give thanks for the United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries and their work in supporting all the facets of human health.