



Trinity United Church of Christ

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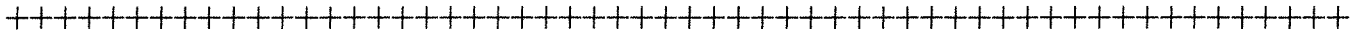
January 14, 2024

8AM and 10:30AM Worship
2nd Sunday following Epiphany

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!

*Congregational responses in **bold print**.*

** Denotes standing as you are able.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

PRELUDE - "Blessed Assurance" *arr. by Knapp*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

You are here for us, O God;

you give us security in an uncertain world.

You encourage us to sing new songs;

you joyfully set our worship free.

You challenge us as we go on the journey of life;

it is your gracious way that leads to fulfillment.

There is no end to the love you lavish on us;

we know your love is there for us, in time and beyond time.

***HYMN #126 "Angels From the Realms of Glory"**

***PRAYER**

Something made the hairs stand up on our necks. Was it you, O God?

Was it you that we saw blowing over the water?

Was it you that we heard in those steps?

Was it you that we felt in the beating of our own hearts?

Was it you that called our names?

Come, O God. Come to search us. Come to know us again.

We were knit in your womb. We have tried to count your works.
**Come, O God, so that we can hear you calling our names.
Here and now. Amen.**

***RESPONSE TO PRAYER #126 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (V1)**
*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your light o'er all the earth;
As you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, give thanks and sing.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One, you have called us by name.
You will not let us lounge in bed.
You wake us up in the middle of the night.
You will not let us hide under the tree.
You summon us from the shade to be changed.
You will not let us bury our secrets within the earth.
You unearth our fears and speak them aloud.
Forgive us, O God, when we cannot speak.
Reveal the words we need most.
In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

(Moment for Silent Prayer)

#750 KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our God knows you by name.
Our God knows what you fear.
For you are fearfully and wonderfully made.
In your name, God's works are revealed again to us. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sara Shank

SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

SERMON
Pastor Preston Van Deursen
Guest Pastor

HYMN #473 "Blessed Assurance"
(Remain Seated)

PRAYER/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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God,
the creator of all things,
the giver of life and breath.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
born Emmanuel, God with us,
baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God;
he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself,
suffering for us, dying for us
and being raised from the dead for our sake
and for the sake of all the world.
We believe that he will come again.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
continually poured out refreshing our lives,
leading us into a new day,
ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.
This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth
reminding us of the gift of faith,
the ever presence of God
and the promise of eternal life.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS**

We are poor, unless God blesses us.
We are rich, when we offer up what we have to God.
Let us offer our gifts with open hearts and minds.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

#164 **“Arise, Your Light Is Come”** (v1)
*Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shine on you today!*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**O God of blessing and of curse, of life and of death,
give us ears to hear the word of life in Christ with all its stark demand.
Enable us to hear good news when Christ
asks us to give ourselves in faith to you,
that we may attain your blessing. Amen.**

***HYMN #154 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

***FINAL BLESSING**

Send us, O God.
Send us to search for your name.
Send us to count your works.
Send us to feel you calling our names.
Send us, O God, into your dream.
Go in the peace of Christ. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

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Elements from today's worship have been adapted from the following resources:

Shine on, Star of Bethlehem.

Compiled by Geoffrey Duncan. The Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 2002.

Prayers to Share, Year B.

David Sparks. Wood Lake Books. Kelowna, BC. 2002.

Touch Holiness

Ruth Duck and Maren Tirabassi. The Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 2012.

Portions of the Communion Liturgy came from:

Rev. Amy Pitton within the Worship Well:

A ministry of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

The Rev. Dr. Amanda Burr is a United Methodist elder appointed to

United Methodist Church of Palm Springs, California.

Prelude: *Blessed Assurance.* Arr. Knapp. ©1999 Lorenz Publishing Co

Hymns: *Angels From the Realms of Glory* (public domain)

Blessed Assurance (public domain)

Go, Tell it on The Mountain - African American spiritual, arranged by Work, 1907

Anthem: *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* (public domain)

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Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young		Pastor
Dave Churchill	8:00am	Lay Liturgists
Jane Eiker	10:30am	
Sara Shank		Organist
John McKay		Senior Choir Director
Mark Luckenbaugh	8:00am	Percussion
	8:00am	Ushers
George Steckert	10:30am	
Mary Jane & Harry Hilbert		Greeters
Bonnie Smith		Acolyte
Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Sue Churchill,		Tech Team
Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Terry Krietz		

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

James Montgomery, 1816; alt.

1. An-gels, from the realms of glo-ry,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
As you sang cre-a-tion's sto-ry,
now pro-claim Mes-si-ah's birth:
Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship,
wor-ship Christ, give thanks and sing.
2. Shep-herds, in the fields a-bid-ing,
watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now re-sid-ing,
yon-der shines the in-fant light:
Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship,
wor-ship Christ, give thanks and sing.
3. Sag-es, leave your con-tem-pla-tions,
bright-er vi-sions beam a-far;
Seek the great De-sire of Na-tions,
guid-ed by Christ's na-tal star:
Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship,
wor-ship Christ, give thanks and sing.
4. Saints, be-fore the al-tar bend-ing,
watch-ing long in hope and fear,
Sud-den-ly, your prayers at-tend-ing,
Christ be-side you shall ap-pear.
Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship,
wor-ship Christ, give thanks and sing.

Luke 2:8–20; Matt. 2:1–2, 9–11

Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine!
O what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
born of the Spir-it, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain:

This is my sto-ry, this is my song,
prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long;
This is my sto-ry, this is my song,
prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light!
Vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
An-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove
ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.

Refrain:

3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest,
I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blessed;
Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,
filled with God's good-ness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain:

Acts 17:30–31; Rev. 7:9–14

Go Tell It on the Mountain

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work II, 1907

Refrain:

Go tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hill and ev-ery-where.
Go tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born!

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
Be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.

Refrain:

2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a-bove the earth
Rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.

Refrain:

3. Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,
And God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain:

Luke 2:8–20; Isa. 18:3; 52:7

Trinity United Church of Christ
Gettysburg, PA

January 14, 2024

2nd Sunday after Epiphany



Sermon
"One Ringa Dingy!"

1 Samuel 3:1-20
John 1:43-51

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young
Pastor

I often think about the ministerial origins of those whose call takes them far beyond simple acceptance. How they started their careers just like the rest of us; young, fresh and a little green. Like Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, who once served a local church. Did he ever suspect the path of activism he would walk while visiting parishioners, selecting Sunday hymns and writing sermons? Here is his story.

My call to the ministry was neither dramatic nor spectacular. It came neither by some miraculous vision nor by some blinding light experience on the road of life. Moreover, it did not come as a sudden realization. Rather, it was a response to an inner urge that gradually came upon me. This urge expressed itself in a desire to serve God and humanity, and the feeling that my talent and my commitment could best be expressed through the ministry. At first I planned to be a physician; then I turned my attention in the direction of law. But as I passed through the preparation stages of these two professions, I still felt within that undying urge to serve God and humanity through the ministry. During my senior year in college, I finally decided to accept the challenge to enter the ministry. I came to see that God had placed a responsibility upon my shoulders and the more I tried to escape it the more frustrated I would become. A few months after preaching my first sermon I entered theological seminary.

This, in brief, is an account of my call and pilgrimage to the ministry.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Source:

MLKP, MBU, Martin Luther King, Jr., Papers, 1954-1968, Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, Boston University, Boston, Mass.

Calling, in definition, means: a strong urge toward a particular way of life or career; a vocation. We hear in our text from 1 Samuel and the Gospel of John, God's voice inviting us to lives of attentiveness and action. Young Samuel lives, serves, and studies with the elderly priest in the temple. One night after they've gone to sleep he hears a voice calling him in the darkness. He obediently gets up to attend to his master, but Eli insists he is not calling out. It takes a bit of time to work out the mystery, but finally Eli realizes that God is still speaking, and he instructs Samuel to listen more intently. He tells the boy to respond, *"Speak, for your servant is listening!"*

The Gospel of John relays the story of Phillip meeting Jesus. Out of pure joy he ran to his brother, Nathaniel, to tell him of his encounter. Nathaniel questions, *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"* Little did he know that his lack of enthusiasm would be transformed into passion for life by his own exciting experiences with Christ. Pastor and professor, Bruce Epperly offers to us:

Our calling is to listen to the many voices of God, often hidden in everyday experience, and then follow God's guidance, shaping our encounters with God in our own unique ways.

The characters within the call accounts in our scripture text this week focus on the voice of our still speaking God, it is for us to determine, in our current context, if anyone is still listening? Do we not only pray, but also make time in silence for listening? When it is time to make good choices, do we set aside time to delve into the options with a faithful heart? What does it look like to live life listening?

This past week, while walking the halls of Grace Church, I entered the third floor Kindergarten room and recalled a time when I was quite young, and my mother was teaching Sunday school in the next room. Maybe you remember the days of keeping an account of your weekly church attendance. I got caught placing a sticker on my attendance chart of a man approaching the church building upside down. When asked by my teacher why I placed the man on his head, I shared, “You

see that man, he's going straight to hell!" My mother cringed, but from a young age, I knew I would be telling people all about faith!

Church was a second home, a place where we could worship, fellowship, sing, and learn together with our extended family. Some of my closest friends came from my home church. I did not think I had a vocation for ministry, but there were moments when the path would shimmer in the distance. I was asked to pray for a family Thanksgiving meal when I was in elementary school and my grandmother declared I would be a pastor. While a junior in high school, I portrayed the character, The Rev. Dr. Chausable, in the musical, *Ernest in Love*; little did I know what my future would hold. I always enjoyed creating stories, however, my dyslexia kept me in special reading and writing classes until middle school. Although quite helpful for my long term learning, the stigma of such classes shadowed me for many years. Eventually, I needed to be convinced that I was capable of much more than I gave myself credit for.

It was Rita Bouchard who helped me find the confidence I needed to attend college and eventually, seminary. Rita constantly spoke to me about my gifts for ministry, traits she discovered through the various Christmas plays I wrote for Grace. Theatre became an outlet for me, to take on the role of someone else and escape from the realities facing the average teenager. Rita was my Eli, and her nudges of who I might become led me to listen.

By the time I was in my early twenties I had graduated from a small business school and secured a job in computers at York College of Pennsylvania. I became comfortable there as a college administrator and worked eleven years in different positions, earning two degrees and eventually meeting my wife. Within our first year of marriage, I began to talk about seminary and Kara was totally supportive. That July, Kara and I counseled a week of summer camp at Gretna Glen in Lebanon County. It was there that my epiphany moment happened during a commitment campfire. I threw a stick into the fire and immediately saw myself in seminary. Within a few weeks I was enrolled as a student

once again. During those tough first months I felt like my calling was still unclear and questioned more than once if I should remain at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

In January I became a **Chaplain Intern at York Hospital**. It was there that I began to understand that the scope of ministry went way beyond Sunday worship. My internship involved providing pastoral care and presence to those in need, understanding various perspectives on religion and spirituality, recognizing God's role in other's lives and developing an all-inclusive understanding of God's unconditional grace. My required semester of hospital ministry evolved into two more years as a chaplain resident, where I had ample opportunities to walk beside patients and their families through illness, recovery, and grief. I learned the value of pastoral presence in the midst of despair and the treasured lesson that a silent calmness is more meaningful than an anxious chatterbox. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) laid the foundation which continues to support my ministry today.

As my calling continued to develop, I accepted the position of chaplain of the **Margaret E. Moul Home in York**, a respite for those with multiple forms of brain stem impairments. My ministry to the residents and staff of the Moul Home was an invaluable part of my pastoral development. Not a day went by that I did not learn something. Residents quickly became friends, and I discovered God's presence within the marvelous abilities of those society labels disabled. I completed my seminary education during my time as their chaplain.

I don't know if I began to listen more intently, or if God began to call more urgently, but somehow I knew when it was time to serve in parish ministry. My search for a position brought me to **Christ Church UCC in Elizabethtown** as the Associate Pastor of Youth, Education and Outreach. I was **ordained** into the United Church of Christ by the Gettysburg Association on **March 5, 2005**. My years at Christ Church provided a joyful and solid foundation for ministry. I loved working with my youth! Over the years I developed relationships with young people who have made a difference in the church, the community, and

the world. Many are now married and having children of their own. It was also at Christ Church where I discovered a gift for developing and writing curriculum, stories, and worship.

My call narrative now brings me back to where it all began, with my family at Grace UCC, Hanover. As we begin this yoked ministry, the members of Trinity in Gettysburg and I are excited to see where this shared journey will take us. Hopefully, members here at Grace share this same enthusiasm and hope. I share my call story today as a catalyst for you to think about your own calling.

Samuel was young when God spoke to him about his future. Christ's disciples were a bit older, all entangled in their own careers, not searching for a new path when Jesus came along and swept them away into a different life. God is constantly speaking, in still, small moments, and big bellowing bursts. Like Martin Luther King Jr., many of us started out on familiar paths, heading toward one thing while life subtly turned us about in the opposite direction. It took over 15 years for me to

begin my journey into ministry. Here I am Lord, your servant is slow,
but still listening.

Today, I ask, “What is your story?” How have you been called by
God to share your life and your gifts with others? In what ways do you
need to listen? How might you be resisting? How has your life been
changed? Only you can answer these questions. Only you can quiet
your heart and listen. Amen.