



*"Christ Reads from Isaiah"* by Mike Moyers.

# **Christ Church** **UNITED CHURCH** **OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor  
Organist and Pianist, Matthew Lawrenz  
Nancy Charles, Song Leader

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January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Today marks the second Sunday after the Epiphany, a season when the Church explores the identity of Jesus. Gospel after Gospel challenges us: who is this person of power and Spirit who has appeared among us? This week we continue our sermon series, *The Light Shines in the Darkness*, which calls us to shine forth our Christian faith in the world by putting what is in our hearts into action.

The focus this week is the story of Jesus preaching in his hometown. When Jesus declares he has been sent to care for outsiders, those in his presence turned from praise to rage. They drove him out of town and refused his message. This weekend we honor the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We do not only remember his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, but also his many letters and sermons. Just as Christ in Luke 4, many Christians only want to hear Jesus' teachings when they don't hold up a mirror to our brokenness. Prophets are not honored when they speak truth to power and bring God's justice to life. This week, Jesus' prophetic nature is illuminated.

*\*Please recite the gold words aloud.*

**Prelude**

*We Shall Overcome*

Marohnic

**Words of Welcome**

**Opening Song**

*Come Away from Rush and Hurry*

- 1. Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace; from our vain ambition's worry, come to Christ to find release. Come away from noise and clamor, life's demands and frenzied pace; come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God's face.**
- 2. Come, then, children, with your burdens life's confusions, fears and pain. Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take instead his kingdom's reign. Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them he alone will satisfy. All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.**

**Opening Litany**

Rev. Trayce Potter

One: God of our ancestors and God of our dreams, we gather today to remember that you have created us all in your image and in your likeness

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

One: We remember how you spoke into the darkness and created light

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

One: We remember the ways you have delivered your people through trials and tribulations since the beginning of time, right up until this present moment

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

One: You have comforted us through the middle passage, racism, segregation, stripped identities and unjust laws

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

One: God you have been the guiding light along the paths of Hope and Love leading toward a beloved community where all are equally seen and radically loved

**All: And so, we still have the courage to dream the impossible.**

One: We gather today remembering your presence amongst us and the call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you and our neighbors.

### **Opening Prayer**

**Rev. Trayce Potter**

*God of our weary years and God of our silent tears,  
thou who has brought us thus far on the way,  
we invite your presence into our midst*

*as we pay tribute to all who have labored for justice, equality and love.*

*We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us*

*to continue to fight for the fulfillment of the dream that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
so eloquently laid out on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.*

*Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted,  
every hill and mountain made low,*

*the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight  
so that the glory of the Lord is revealed,  
and all flesh see it together.*

*Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with diverse hues, colors, ethnicities  
and cultures, and respect the content of their character.*

*Let your spirit strengthen us for the fight of today and tomorrow  
until all God's children can say with full conviction,*

*"Free at last. Free at last. Thank God All-Mighty, I'm free at last."*

***Amen.***

### **The Gloria**

**Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines On Me**

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

*Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile*

## Old Testament

[Psalm 146 \(ICB\)](#)

This psalm is a song of praise to God. This song reminds people that they cannot put their sole trust into worldly leaders, but they can trust wholly the God of history, nature, and Zion. God is the one who brings justice to the oppressed, provides food for the hungry, and frees the prisoners. Earthly kings and rulers do not measure up to God. The rule of kings come to an end, but God's reign endures forever.

## Contemporary Lesson

**Martin Luther King Jr**

**David Dinkins**

Martin Luther King is dead now, and we, the mourners and losers, are left with his dreams – with decisions to make. He is dead now, and there are no words we can say for him, for he said his own. He is dead now, and any eulogy must be for us, the living. Martin Luther King is dead now, so for him there is no tomorrow on this earth. But for us there are tomorrows and tomorrows. He painted a picture of what our tomorrows could be in his dream of America. This past weekend painted a picture of how that dream could become a nightmare should we lose sight of his principles.

Martin Luther King is dead now, but he left a legacy. He planted in all of us, black and white, the seeds of love of justice, of decency, of honor, and we must not fail to have these seeds bear fruit.

Martin Luther King is dead now, and there is only time for action. The time for debate, the time for blame, the time for accusation is over. Ours is a clear call to action. We must not only dedicate ourselves to great principles, but we must apply those principles to our lives.

Martin Luther King is dead now, and he is because he dared believe in nonviolence in a world of violence. Because he dared believe in peace in a world of conflict. He is dead now because he challenged all of us to believe in his dream.

Martin Luther King is dead now, and we cannot allow the substance of his dream to turn into the ashes of defeat. If we are to build a tribute to what he stood for, we must, each of us, stand for the same things.

Martin Luther King is dead now, and I ask each of you, the living, to join him and me, to go from this room and keep the dream alive. We must now commit ourselves, we must now work, we must now define what kind of America we are going to have – for unless we make his dream a reality we will not have an America about which to decide.

Martin Luther King is dead now – but he lives.

## New Testament

[Luke 4:14-30 \(ICB\)](#)

In this Gospel lesson, Jesus preaches in his hometown, Nazareth. He reads Isaiah chapter 61 in the synagogue and declares the Good News has been proclaimed and fulfilled in his congregation's presence. Everybody loved to hear this, but when Jesus tells his audience that he actually was sent for outsiders rather than insiders, the

people change their tune. Their praise turns to rage, and they drive Jesus to the edge of town and seek to throw him off a cliff. In a way, Jesus holds a mirror up to their brokenness and inability to accept God's Good News for all as Good News at all.

**Sermon**            **The Light Shines in the Darkness - Living Mirror**      Pastor Dan Stark

**Song of Response**            *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

**[Refrain:]**

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises,  
all our hearts are filled with gladness.**

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises,  
all our hearts are filled with gladness.**

**1. Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread;  
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger. [Refrain]**

**2. Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt;  
strong in faith, free of doubt, tell all the joyful Gospel. [Refrain]**

**Prayers of the People**

*Hear Our Prayers, O God...*

**For health & healing:** *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Ps. 147:3*

We pray for:

~The Fritsch family, as we celebrate his life and lay him to rest this weekend.

~The Klockows and the family of Susie's cousin Dylan who recently died of Muscular Dystrophy.

~Ken Klockow as he deals with severe lower back pain.

~Kim O'Brien and her family as she continues to heal and recover.

~Noelle Simons that her treatments go well.

~Cousin of Susie Klockow who is in the hospital with a possible stroke.

~Ken's sister who was moved to a nursing home and has an ongoing infection and dementia.

~Susie Klockow's Aunt Evelyn who has covid and is in hospice and Aunt Eleanore who had a stroke and is in home hospice, also for her daughters and granddaughters who are taking care of her.

~Jack, Dick and Joan Gaeth's nieces' husband who has recently been diagnosed with Leukemia. From Dick and Joan Gaeth.

~Bill Kroening as he is halfway thru a series of 5 radiation treatments for Prostate cancer. He is blessed they caught it early.

~Bob Kroening as he has had treatments of a regimen of 6 chemo drug treatments that will be spread out over winter. He has recently been able to go off oxygen.

Thank you for your prayers, they are helping.

~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie Struck. Prayers for continued healing for wounds as he goes to wound care.

~Nick Miller, nephew of Nancy & Brad Charles who has started using heroin again. Prayers for the whole family.

~Ian, Molly Pufall Brown's husband who has 2 upcoming appointments in the couple of weeks for something in his blood noticed in his annual physical blood work. Praying for a good outcome. From Molly Pufall Brown.

~Dawn, daughter in-law of Laurel and wife of Brad Dayton, as she manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week.

~Tracy, daughter of Nancy Kaye, who is at home with Nancy awaiting liver and kidney transplants. She is doing well.

~Continued prayers for Julene Flanagan's nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.

~Continued prayers for Julene Flanagan's family member who is struggling with health issues related to kidney disease.

~Maureen, friend of Susie Klockow, who has breast cancer.

~Jeanie, good friend of Sue Klockow whose father is at the VA hospital suffering from Congestive heart failure.

~Dan, friend of Molly Pufall Brown, who is very sick with an undiagnosed illness. Prayers also for his wife and 2 young children.

~Kelley, friend of Nancy Charles as she receives radiation treatment for breast cancer.

~Bernee, friend of Nancy Kaye who has end-stage lung cancer and is in a nursing home in hospice.

**For our community and country:**

~Reconciliation and healing for our country during these divisive times.

~Our law enforcement, national guardsmen, and those who serve during this time of uncertainty.

~Swift and safe vaccine distribution.

**Prayer Song**

*Into My Heart*

**Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus;  
come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**Call to Offering**

**Rev. Elsa A Cook**

*God knows you by name. God knows all that you can do.  
God appears in your works for justice.  
God is revealed in our hope for change.  
Let us carry this spirit into our giving.  
Let us praise God with our gifts of tithes and offerings.*

## Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Elsa A Cook

*O God, you offer us wonderful gifts.*

*In these offerings, may we make for change that doesn't yet exist.*

*May we give it a name. May we move through our fears.*

*May we dare to call this hope wonderful, in the hope of Christ Jesus, we pray.*

*Amen.*

## Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**A-men.**

## Closing Song

*God be With You*

1. God be with you till will we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again, 'neath his wings protecting hide you, daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

3. God be with you till we meet again; if life's perils should confound you, God will put his arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.

## Sending Blessing

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.*

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.*

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.*

*Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

## Postlude

*Trumpet Tune in D Major*

Franceschini/Wolff

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## Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

Emma Mitchell January 18, 2021

Sam Mitchell January 18, 2021

Zack Buell January 19, 2021

Evangeline Tremarello January 22

Bodhi Schmidling January 23, 2021

## Thanks

~"I am recovering and home and that I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, cards, and prayers. The prayer shawl that was dropped off by my "Christ Church Family" is amazing. I have been wearing it every day. It is perfect and I feel blessed when I am using it. Kim

~Thanksgiving for our SOS volunteer who feed the hungry in Bay View.

~” Our deepest gratitude for your continued support of Arts and Science Literacy Camp. Your very generous gift of \$5,000 for the Arts and Science Literacy Camp year round ministry touches the lives of children throughout our area. Thank-you on behalf of Grace, Tippecanoe, Immanuel, Crossroad PCUSA churches, Christ and Plymouth UCC churches, and Hephatha ELCA church who share their wisdom and resources to guide this justice outreach ministry. Together we are making a positive impact in our shared community. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we hold you in ours as well.”

Within God’s Abiding Grace, Christian Pavlock, Clerk of Session.

## **Announcements**

### **2021 Giving Envelopes**

The 2021 Giving Envelopes are available to be picked up during church office hours. They are located outside of Pastor Dan’s office. Even if you normally give electronically the box of envelopes also has other special giving opportunities to assist the church with utilities, building, mailing etc. costs and missions.

### **NEED: BVCC Food and Infant Pantry**

You can still donate to the pantry as the Food pantry at the BVCC remains open. The community center is requesting the following donations:

CANNED: Jam/Jellies, Peanut Butter.

SINGLE SERVING SNACKS, SUCH AS: Applesauce, Fruit cups, Granola Bars, Crackers/Chips, and Fruit Snacks.

PACKAGED: Rice, Beans, Pasta and Cereal.

Monetary donations are always appreciated as well.

*Donations can be dropped off at the BVCC @ 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.:  
Tuesdays thru Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm.*

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways

**If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email [pastor@uccmke.org](mailto:pastor@uccmke.org).  
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.**

**We are currently worshipping online-only. Learn more here.**

**<https://www.uccmke.org/covid-advent>**

**You can make your offering to Christ Church at [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate) or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.**