



*"From Water to Wine"* by Mike Moyers.

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

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

[www.uccmke.org](http://www.uccmke.org)  
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Today marks the fifth 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.

In today's Old Testament passage from Psalm 119, the psalmist speaks of God's Word as a light unto our path. God's authoritative teaching, the Torah, provides a way for the psalmist. In Luke's account of Jesus' ministry, we hear the story of Jesus healing a centurion's servant. The centurion knew about authority. When he says to do something, people listen to him. He recognizes that Jesus has authority that outweighs him because he is from God without Jesus having to do anything to prove it. Jesus is moved by the amazing faith of the centurion. The words we speak have power. Our words can harm or heal. Words can create, order our lives, or share the salvation preached throughout the Gospels. What can we do or say that would amaze Jesus today?

*\*Please recite the gold words aloud.*

**Prelude**

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Willan

**Words of Welcome**

**Opening Song**

*O God, Beyond All Praising*

- 1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end; we lift our hearts before you and wait up on your Word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.**
- 2. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our King; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.**

**Opening Litany**

Joana Harader, Spacious Faith

Have you not known?

**Our God is the everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth.**

Have you not heard?

**God does not faint or grow weary.**

Have you not known?

**God's understanding is unsearchable.**

Have you not heard?

**God gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.**

Have you not known?

**Those who wait for God will renew their strength they shall mount up with wings like eagles.**

We come to hear.

**We come to know.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **Opening Prayer**

*Gracious God, Creator of the universe...and then some. Today we gather in our homes, on our phones and tablets and laptops, behind screens, through fibers and wires and ones and zeros. Wherever we are this morning, help your word be a light unto our paths – and the story of your Son be one that amazes and inspires us.*

*Amen and 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 119:105-107](#)

Psalm 119 resonates with Israel's wisdom tradition. This psalm presumes a body of instruction upon which to meditate: the Torah. The image of God's instruction as a lamp that lights the psalmist's path is powerful for the season of Epiphany. God's Word is a light that guides us. The psalmist observes God's ways faithfully despite their own suffering and is filled by life from God's Word.

### **New Testament**

[Luke 7:1-17](#)

When Jesus entered Capernaum, he was met by Jewish elders who asked him to heal an unnamed centurion's servant. The centurion loved the people and built a synagogue for them. When Jesus approached the centurion's house, he sent friends to tell Jesus not to bother going any further. He believed in authority and knew how it worked, so he believed all Jesus had to do was say the word and the servant would be healed. Jesus was amazed by the faith of the centurion because he had never met anyone with such faith. When the centurion's friends returned home, the servant had been made well.

This story of faith, which inspires amazement in Jesus, is a call for us to reflect on what amazes us, and how we, as Christians, might strive to amaze Jesus with our faith.

**Sermon**    **The Light Shines in the Darkness – Amazing Jesus**                      Pastor Dan Stark

**Song of Response**

*Make Me A Servant*

**Make me a servant humble and meek, Lord, let me lift up those who are weak; and may the prayer of my heart always be: make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.**

**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:

~Ian, husband of Molly Pufall Brown that his biopsy of a mass yield promising results and show good treatment prognosis for lymphoma. Prayers also for wife Molly and their children.

~Judy, niece of Ken Klockow as she is on chemo for breast cancer.

~Baby Theo who had to be resuscitated and hospitalized. He is now home but the doctors couldn't find out what caused this episode. From Sonia Stark.

~Emily, her husband and 2 young children, Andy Oren's friend as she was just diagnosed with systemic scleroderma, a serious auto-immune disease.

~Ken Klockow as he deals with lower back pain.

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

~Ken's sister who was moved to a nursing home and has a serious chronic 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.

~Johnny, friend of the Klockows who has COVID and other health problems.

~Prayers of thanksgiving for Jack husband of the Gaeth's niece who is coming home from the hospital after a months stay for Luekemia treatments. Continued prayers for healing.

~Bill Kroening as he receives radiation treatments.

~Bob Kroening as he receives chemo drug treatments.

~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.

~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.

~Dan, friend of Molly Pufall Brown, who is very sick and discouraged with an undiagnosed illness. Prayers also for his wife and 2 young children as the eldest child is being taken care of the grandma and his wife works full time and struggles to also take care of their youngest child.

~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.

### **Prayer Song**

*Spirit of the Living God*

1. **Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

2. **Spirit of the living God, move among us all; make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love: humble, caring, selfless, sharing. Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.**

### **Call to Offering**

The word for "amazement" in the New Testament usually deals with how people respond to Jesus – *not* how Jesus responds to *them*. It's only other usage has to deal with how Jesus was amazed how people in his hometown wanted him dead after he preached to them. However, Jesus is amazed with the centurion's faith. It is my hope that we can pour out amazing generosity this morning and that we can amaze each other and our God. *Please give as you are able.* [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate)

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, by your goodness you have healed many who were ill, even raising the dead to life. You inspire us with your word. You amaze us every day. Bless the fruits of our generosity this morning. May it inspire and amaze us. 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**                    *We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light*

REFRAIN:

**We are singing, for the Lord is our light,  
we are singing, for the Lord is our light.  
We are singing, for the Lord is our light,  
we are singing, for the Lord is our light.  
We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing,  
we are singing for the Lord is our light.  
We are singing, singing, we are singing, singing,  
we are singing for the Lord is our light.**

**1. The Lord is the strength of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?  
Though foes may be near to destroy, the Lord will be our light.**

REFRAIN

**2. We walk in the strength of the Lord, God's love is ever sure  
We shout that the world may hear, we sing a joyful song.**

REFRAIN

**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**

*Toccata in Seven*

Rutter

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways



**Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!**

Joan Amich February 7  
Katie Sequin February 7  
Ray Blankenberg February 9  
Presley Pisarek February 12  
Chuck Terlinden February 12  
Nancy Wareham February 12  
Michael Baran February 13

## **Announcements**

### **CALLING ALL GIRLSCOUT COOKIE LOVERS!!**

Mallory is once again selling Girl Scout cookies (in a safe and socially distanced way) this year! If you are interested in buying cookies to support her troop, please reach out via email to Allison at [amthomae@att.net](mailto:amthomae@att.net) or by phone at 414-477-6408 by Friday, February 12. We would be happy to deliver cookies to your home, in a COVID-safe way.

The flavors available this year are: *Smores, Lemonades, Shortbread, Thin Mints, Peanut Butter Patties, Caramel Delites, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, and the new cookie called "Toast-yay!"* The new cookie is a cinnamon, French-toast inspired cookie with icing.

Thank you in advance for supporting Mallory and her troop in this venture!

### **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 & INFANT FORMULA PANTRY**

The community center is requesting the following donations:

CANNED: Jam/Jellies.

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

PACKAGED: Pasta.

TOILITRIES: Toilet Paper/Paper Towels, Hand Soap, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes.

Monetary donations are always appreciated as well.

*Donations can be dropped off at the BVCC @ 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.:*

Tuesday-Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DI SOS FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

Building reps are needed to help distribute bagged and hot meals provided by outside donors to the needy in our community at Christ Church from 5pm-6pm Friday.

Please contact the Wicks or the church office if you are interested in helping in this important ministry.

**NEED:** Heavy duty forks and knives to hand out with donated warm meals.

Donations can be dropped off at church during regular office hours. Thanks!

*Thank you to the individuals who provided prepackaged plastic ware for the Friday night Share our Suppers. It is so helpful to have this for contact-free distribution with the meals.*

Jim and Randene Wick

### **NEED: PLEASE SUPPORT JIM DANDY'S PUB & GRILL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO DI-SOS**

Jim Dandy's Pub & Grill

**Address:** 8900 S 27th St, Oak Creek, WI 53154,

**Phone:** (414) 304-8136 **WEB:** <https://www.jimdandysgrill.com/>

Jim Dandy's Pub & Grill has graciously provided Divine Intervention – Share Our Suppers (DI-SOS) with 45 hot meals each Friday evening, since early July, to be distributed at Christ Church through the DI-SOS ministry. Any support you can provide to this restaurant during these difficult times would be greatly welcomed and appreciated. Consider ordering by phone for pick up or mask up and socially distance at their restaurant. Also, mention that you are thankful for their support of DI-SOS. Jim Wick

**Grab-n-Go Chinese Dinner Celebration, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13TH with pickup at Christ Church from 5:00 pm-6:30 pm. Call ahead and order or pick it up at the door! YUM! Call ahead and order or pick it up at the door! YUM! 414-481-3530.**



*People should contact Paul and Doris Mayeshiba if they would like to help by prepping, cooking, washing dishes, or running food to the door. 414-483-9600.*

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.