



"Miracle Catch" by Mike Moyers.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH**
OF CHRIST

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

www.uccmke.org
www.facebook.com/groups/christchurchucc

One: Jesus is calling out to us;

All: "Repent, and believe in the Good News.

One: "Come, follow me, and gather people,

All: Repent, and believe in the Good News."

Opening Prayer

God of Good News to all people and for all people.

You extend your invitation to even the most reluctant followers – from Jonah to Simon – to James and John and...each of us. You extend to grace to Nineveh, Nazareth, and Milwaukee alike. Help us to follow you and live your lifegiving grace in the world. 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.**

Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile

Old Testament

[Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#)

Jonah was a reluctant prophet. However, Jonah was perhaps the most successful prophet in the Bible. He struggles to embrace this calling and does the exact opposite of what God calls him to do. In this passage, Jonah journeys to the city of Nineveh and proclaims the city will be overthrown by God. Everyone in the city – including the animals – repents. In a stunning twist, God changes God's mind about what would happen to the city, because the people changed *their* ways. God does not destroy the city and Jonah struggles with this outcome, because even he believed Nineveh was irredeemable.

New Testament

[Luke 5:1-11](#)

The Gospel also tells the story of reluctant followers. Jesus had been preaching for some time. He preached in his hometown synagogue. He preached to crowds. In this passage, crowds followed Jesus to Lake Gennesaret to hear him preach. Jesus got into the boat belonging to Simon and teaches from the waters. When he finished preaching, he told Simon where to drop his nets. Simon was reluctant to drop his net because he was up all night and caught nothing. There is a miraculous catch of fish, in which Simon needs help to pull the nets in.

It became clear to Simon that Jesus was from God, so he fell to his knees, worshiped him, and felt unworthy to be in his presence. Jesus tells Simon, James, and John to follow him and become fishers of people.

Sermon The Light Shines in the Darkness – Reluctant Followers Pastor Dan Stark

Song of Response *Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name; now my boat's left on the shore-line behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.

1. Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones; you only asked me to follow humbly. Refrain.
2. You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons; you will find there my nets and labor. Refrain.
3. You need my hands, full of caring, through my labors to give others rest, and constant love that keeps on loving. Refrain.

Prayers of the People

Prayer Song

Hear Our Prayers, O God...

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

We pray for:

- ~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.
 - ~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.
 - ~Tom, cousin of Susie Klockow who has Muscular Dystrophy and has been exposed to COVID.
 - ~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.
 - ~Prayers of Thanksgiving for Jack, Dick and Joan Gaeth's nieces' husband who is improving and remains in the hospital receiving treatments for Leukemia. Prayers for continued healing.
 - ~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.

~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 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.

For our community and country:

~Continued prayers for peace and for unity. Prayers for our defenders and law enforcement.

~Our military and nation.

~For those who are hopeful and prayers for those who are struggling.

~Swift and safe vaccine distribution.

Call to Offering

It is easy to be reluctant to give back when we, like Simon, feel worn down by the world around us. We can be restless, disappointed, or scared. Gratitude is a demonstration that a blessing or benefit has been received. Today, we heard a call, dropped our nets, and came to this time and place to find new life. The gifts we give are tokens of the blessings of the new life we live in Christ. Bring them with joy and gratitude. Please give as you are able. www.uccmke.org/donate

Prayer of Dedication

Like Jonah, we do not always love whom God extends God's grace to. We dig in our heels. We tighten our fists. We can be reluctant to open our purses or hearts. However, God has extended God's grace and love to each of us! Therefore, it is my prayer that these gifts, given to the

ministries of grace, may be a blessing to friends and strangers, those like us and those not, those deserving and those not, for in this way the love of God reaches all of God's beloved. 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

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Refrain:

**Halleluja! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Halleluja! 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 to all the joyful Gospel. 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

Fantasia on 'I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light'

Behnke

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways

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Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

Rosemary Czerwinski January 24

Jim Wick January 24

Kenneth Miller January 25

Cheri Boyle January 26

Dennis Boretsky January 27

Barb Heino January 28

Beau Oleson January 28

Kristen Mayeshiba January 30

Eric Schmidling January 30

Thanks

~Prayers of gratitude for those who provided winter coats for our Friday night SOS guests. It warmed our hearts last week to see the expressions of joy and thankfulness on the faces of those receiving them. Andy Oren

~Thank you to the Gaeths for “undecorating” the church inside. We appreciate your service.

~Thank you to Property member Brian O’Brien and volunteers Don Antoniewicz, Dick Gaeth, Rich Tremarello, Paul Mayeshiba and Pastor Dan for caringly taking down and storing away the outdoor nativity scene until next year. We appreciate you taking on this physical project.

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 & INFANT FORMULA PANTRY

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.:

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

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email 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 or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

