



*"Let There Be Light" by Mike Moyers.*

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

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

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Today marks the sixth Sunday after the Epiphany and reach the culmination of our season with Transfiguration Sunday. Epiphany reveals glimpses of Jesus' identity through his miracles, teaching, and preaching. Our Gospel lessons have challenged us with questions about Jesus' divinity and person. This week we conclude our sermon series, *The Light Shines in the Darkness*. This series calls us to shine forth our Christian faith into the world by putting what is in our hearts into action.

In this weekend's Old Testament lesson, the prophet Elijah is whisked up into the heavens by a whirlwind, and his successor, Elisha, takes up the prophetic mantle. In the Gospel reading we hear how Jesus and his friends went up a mountaintop to pray. When they reached the summit, Jesus changed in appearance and the disciples saw his divinity and relationship to God firsthand. His disciples wanted to stay on the mountaintop forever, but Jesus calls them down and back to work. When they go down the mountainside, Jesus and his disciples are immediately intercepted by people who need their help. On St. Valentine's Day, we remember also that God loves us first and foremost, and God calls us to shine forth that love into the world and not to keep it to ourselves.

*\*Please recite the gold words aloud.*

**Prelude**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Behnke

**Words of Welcome**

**Opening Song**

*Amazing Grace!*

- 1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.**
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**
- 3. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**
- 4. Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**
- 5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

**Opening Litany**

When the Peter went up the mountaintop with Jesus...he said:

**It's good for us to be here!**

This morning when we gather for worship...we say:

**It's good for us to be here!**

When Jesus and the disciples went down the mountaintop...they said:

**We need to be here!**

So today, when God calls us to share the love, we say:

**It's good God needs us here!**

### Opening Prayer

UCC Worship Ways

*O Holy One,*

*on mountaintops and valley floors*

*you reveal to us the light of your love.*

*Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory  
of the divine presence.*

*With each encounter we are changed and transformed.*

*Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit.*

*Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.*

*May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing,  
bearing light into dark places,*

*hope to displace despair,*

*and love that casts out hate.*

*Our world is hurting and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely.*

*Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,*

*... "listen to my Child, the Beloved!" 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

[2 Kings 2:1-12](#)

The prophet Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind to heaven, but not without his protégé, Elisha, following along for the journey beforehand. Time and time again, Elijah warns Elisha to stay behind, but Elisha keeps following him. At Bethel, Elisha is warned that Elijah will be whisked into the heavens, but the younger prophet doesn't listen. At Jericho, Elisha refuses to listen to the advice of the prophets about Elijah's fate. Finally, at the Jordan, Elisha requests a double-portion of Elijah's spirit, and Elijah complies. A whirlwind pulls Elijah into the heavens and Elisha is left to carry on Elijah's prophetic mantle.

## Continued Testament

*You Come to Us In Broken Places*

Christine Jerrett

God of glory,  
you took your friends with you  
when you went to pray on the  
mountain.

You revealed to them  
the glory of Jesus,  
your beloved Son,  
on his way to the cross.

We do not live on mountaintops,  
but we, too, would glimpse your glory  
in the ordinary days of our lives,  
and in the community of your Son  
in which you have chosen to dwell.

We look for you among people who  
have no power, no rights, no voice.

We look for you among those who  
live on the streets of our city,  
whose housing is inadequate,  
whose homes are not safe.

We look for you among those who  
grieve a past that is no more  
and fear a future that seems full of loss.

God who meets us  
in the broken places,  
shine the light of Christ deep into our  
lives,  
so we may carry that light into dark  
places and point to the One  
whose brokenness is our salvation.

## New Testament

[Luke 9:28-45](#)

Jesus, accompanied by the disciples Peter, James, and John, go up a mountainside. When Jesus prays his appearance changes to a bright shining light. During this experience, the sleepy disciples witness a divine reunion between ancestors of their faith and Jesus. Peter declares it is good for the disciples to be on the mountaintop with Jesus. He offers to make a tabernacle for them to live there forever with Moses and Elijah. A cloud envelopes Jesus and tells the disciples to listen to the Son, the Chosen One. When the disciples and Jesus go down the mountaintop the next day, they are immediately encountered by a boy possessed by a spirit that he casts out to everyone's amazement. Jesus explains his impending betrayal and death to his disciples.

**Sermon      The Light Shines in the Darkness - Spread the Love      Pastor Dan Stark**

## Song of Response

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

- 1.    Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son, thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown!**
- 2.    Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring: Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.**
- 3.    Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling, starry host: Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.**
- 4.    Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be thine!**

## 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 as he navigates the preliminary steps to receive treatments of chemotherapy every 2 weeks for 2 months for stage 2 Hodgkins lymphoma. Prayers also for Molly and their daughters during this difficult process. They are encouraged as this type of cancer has a 90% + success rate.

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

~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 and restrictions.

~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 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.

~David Rothe, choir friend of John Helt who has been at St. Luke's for the last two weeks, fighting a serious infection, discovered after a fall in his home.

~Sally, young friend of Andy Oren who is dealing with a cancerous tumor.

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

~Continued prayers for Jack and our niece, Dawn, and their three children as Jack continues chemo treatments. They are grateful that he is home, but now he has to be driven twice a day to the hospital for chemo. Prayers of thanksgiving that he is home and prayers for healing. From Dick & Joan Gaeth.

~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**

We have heard the story of Jesus and his friends going up to the mountaintop – and it sounded nice up there. Peter offered to build a tabernacle on the mountain with Jesus. But God does not dwell in houses made with human hands. Today let us offer ourselves in service to those God loves. Let us offer our sacrifices to build community, bring peace, and be a double blessing to those in need throughout the world. *Please give as you are able.* [www.uccmke.org/donate](http://www.uccmke.org/donate)

### **Prayer of Dedication**

*O Lord, you call us to the mountaintop with you. But you call us down, as well. Bless our gifts and all who gives generously. Help us to bring them down from the mountaintop, so that they aren't just available to the Peter, and James, and John's up top – but to all. Help us spread the love. 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

*I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light*

**Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus. Clear Sun of righteousness shine on my path and show me the way to the Father. Refrain.

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. 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

*Allegria*

Stamm

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## Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

Susie Klockow February 15

Mallory Thomae February 17

Sandy Oleson February 18

Blair Goedel February 19

John Popp February 19

## Thanks

"To my friends at Christ Church, I wish all my friends at Christ Church a very Happy Valentine's Day. Thanks to all my friends at Christ Church for the lovely Valentine's Day card and decoration. I have the decoration on the door to my apartment so everyone passing by will enjoy it. Also, thanks for the Valentines candy-which I will enjoy very much. Thanks for thinking of me. Love, Betty Budzien"

~ "Thank you for the sweet treat for Valentine's Day. It is so very welcomed on these very cold days. Happy Valentine's Day . Noelle and Jon Simons"

## Announcements

### **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

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Bulletin Cover Art by Mike Moyers | [illuminationsbymike.blogspot.com](http://illuminationsbymike.blogspot.com)

Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways

Witness to Wonders: Service Prayers for Transfiguration Sunday, was written by the Rev. Madison Shockley

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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.

