



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 1/1/2023

New Year's Day

Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude:

Welcome

Call To Worship

One: Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

Many: The rhythms of life praise the Everlasting God through the markings of time.

One: Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

Many: The flowers, land, and trees praise the Divine Gardener through rest and renewal.

One: Let all of creation praise the name of the Holy One!

Many: Living creatures praise the Spirit of God through our breathing, living and being.

One: Let us praise the name of the Holy One this day, with our whole being! Amen.

***Hymn of Celebration:** Red Hymnal #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Invocation (Unison)

Holy Love, You make us a community. You gather us as your offspring and knit us together with grace and mercy. In your presence, there is fullness of love, joy, hope, and peace. Thank you for being among us this day and with us in every moment of our being. Receive our praise, dwell in our midst, and create in us a heart that yearns for you and your kingdom.

In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

Listening To the Sacred Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (NRSV)

Meditation on the Light

***Hymn of Reflection:** Black Hymnal #429 "God, Bless Our Homes"

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life** (New year resolutions litany by Ken Sehested)

People: Take my life and let it be / consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Leader: In all seasons, in every shape and condition of our lives, transform our minds and hearts in ways that magnify the rule of Mercy: In ways that conform to Your extravagant and redemptive purposes;

People: in our hopes and promises, in our joys and our sorrows, whether rising or resting, at home or away, at work and at play, with those near and dear but also with strangers, in our longing and our learning to love enemies.

Leader: In an age ruled by terror—both by state and by sect—place on our lips the subversive claim of the Resurrection. As the vanguard of your coming Commonwealth, give us the courage to live at odds with the rage of this age.

People: Inspire in us a thirst for beauty and for truth. Instill in us the wisdom to track the signs of your Spirit moving in odd ways and in unbeknown places. Incite in us the compassion for those neglected parts of your creation—soul and soil alike—in our neighborhoods, in our nation, in the whole wide world.

Leader: Bless these resolutions, these promises, made today in response to your beckoning, and make us ever more faithful, day by passing day. Amen.

Offering invitation

Offertory Music Meditation On Breathing

Offering our gifts and our prayers

***Doxology** (Tune: *All Creatures Of Our God and King*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements

***Sending Song:** Black Hymnal #154 “Go Tell It On the Mountain”

Benediction

Postlude: Auld Lang Syne

*** Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.**

Leading In Today’s Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Bill Beardall, Usher

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Radhika Hicks, Liturgist