



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 1/15/2023

Second Sunday After the Epiphany

Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude: Antique Lace E. Rocherolle

Welcome

Call To Worship “The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman

***Hymn of Celebration:** Black Hymnal #383 “Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls”

***Invocation** (Unison)

*Holy & Loving God, in this hour of worship—
To the revelation and the wonder, open us.
With the vision and the possibility, convict us.
For the recognizing and the following, equip us.
In the struggle and the seeking, be with us.
Holy One, manifest your love, make your justice known
in and among us. Amen.*

Listening To the Sacred Text: Philippians 3:7-16

Listening for the Spirit in Silence:

Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.

Reflecting: “Going the Distance”

***Hymn of Reflection:** Black Hymnal # 570 “We Shall Overcome”

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Leader: It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

People: We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent

enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

Leader: No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

People: This is what we are about:

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

Leader: This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

People: We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

All: We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Offering invitation

Offertory Music

My Lord, What a Mornin'

H.T. Burleigh

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:

Bourrée from Cello Suite No. 3

J. S. Bach

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

Leading In Today's Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Jaime Hadley, Usher

Amy Harris, Violin

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Hannah Mindeman Shuman, Piano

Liz Lee, Cello