

Wedding Feast

Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. (John 2:11)

**Second Sunday after Epiphany and
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend**

January 16, 2022 ♦ 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to the Storrs Congregational Church, United Church of Christ!

As we say at nearly every worship service, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey God welcomes you... and so do we."

We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God's kingdom. We don't all look or act alike; God knows we don't all think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We come from different religious backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we gather as the Body of Christ.

In this grand old church, we do Sunday morning in some pretty traditional ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We gather around the waters of grace and the feast table of Christ. Some of the songs we sing are ones our grandparents might also have sung in their day. Yet, in our preaching and prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of everyday living. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

These May Help During the Service... If you would like a **large-print** copy of the bulletin and hymns, would like seat or back cushions, or are looking for a wheelchair or accessible seating, please ask an usher. **The restroom in this building** is at the front of the church behind the doors to the right of the chancel (in the northeast corner of the building).

Children, too, are welcome at all services. It is important for families to worship together. Don't feel your child must be absolutely quiet or still, for we are glad to have children—and all their wiggles, giggles, and squiggles—as part of our community and worship life!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion: All are welcome, including children, to share in the feast at Christ's table. Currently, we celebrate Communion during the 10 AM Worship on the first Sunday of each month and certain other holy days.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: We gladly offer the sign and seal of God's grace in the waters of baptism, both to children and adults of any age. *For more information, contact the pastor.*

The language of worship is rich and diverse, and yet always inadequate to express the fullness of the divine. In our worship life, we strive to use inclusive language for humanity and expansive imagery for the divine, while respecting the poetry and imagery of texts handed down to us from the ages. Honoring our diversity, in those places where we speak or sing together, worshippers may use language with which they are comfortable or familiar.

Please stand as you are able ^{“”}.*

*Please remember to **silence cell phones** and other devices, and be mindful of those who wish to use the prelude as a time of prayer, meditation, and preparation for worship.*
Please know that our services are recorded on Zoom and live-streamed on YouTube.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ’s resurrection

Prelude — “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” by Buxtehude

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

The psalmist said, “Be still and know that I am God.” Let us center ourselves in a moment of silence as we continue our worship together.

Invocation

O God, all people are your Beloved,
across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations
and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.

We are all manifestations of your image.

You call us into your unending work
of justice, peace and love.

Let us know your presence among us now:

Let us delight in our diversity
that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.

Strengthen us with your steadfast love and
transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.

Under the shadow of your wings in this hour
may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope.

We ask this, inspired by the example
of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr.,
and in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Call to Worship

Leader: Our Mother-Father God
has made us to be One Body with many members.

All: United and uniting. This is our calling.

God calls us to share our diverse gifts
activated by the one and same Spirit .

United and uniting. This is our redemption.

God longs for us to be united in love
and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

United and uniting. This is our worship.

Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship
to our Holy God, who challenges us
and calls us to create *the Beloved Community*.

***Hymn** — “Many Are the Lightbeams” verses 1, 3 & 5

this bulletin p. 10

Prayer of Confession

O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community
which looks to the common good; privileges all equally,
and creates societal systems
which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.

And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other’s gifts,
devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.

Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice:
We allow the voices of brothers and sisters
who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us
to be silenced.

We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality.
We foster in them *a denigrating sense of nobodiness*. **Lord, have mercy.**

Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves
in the face of their struggle for full human life.
For it is not solely hateful words and actions,
but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression. **Christ, have mercy.**

Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness:
You have called us to be *drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness*,
Yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times,
To build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible,
and we grow weary.

We cry, “Peace, peace,”
but there is no peace within us or around us.
We find ourselves on the path
of hatred and oppression, violence and war. **Lord, have mercy.**

(Moment of reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us!

God has promised:

“I will not keep silent and I will not rest
until the vindication of my beloved people
shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch.
My people shall no more be termed ‘forsaken’
and their land shall no more be termed ‘desolate.’”

We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name:
“My delight is in them.”

**Thank you, God for delighting in us even now,
for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness,
for empowering our work
and inviting us once again
to create with you the Beloved Community you long for.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture – Isaiah 62: 1-5; John 2: 1-11

In the book of Isaiah, the people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored.

In the Gospel of John, turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

RESPONSE — “Arise, Shine”

music by Ruth Cunningham

♪ “Arise, shine, for your light has come
and the glory of God has dawned upon you.” ♪

Sermon – “Extravagant Sign”

Rev. Dr. Debra Pallatto-Fontaine

RESPONDING WITH OUR GIFTS

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

As the morning offering is collected, prayers of either joy or concern may be written on the purple prayer request cards found in the pew rack and placed in the offering plates as they are passed.

Call to Offering

Brothers and sisters, who we are and yet becoming as individuals shows God's presence in the world.

That divine presence is reflected even more fully, powerfully, and transforming as we unite in Beloved Community.

Let us bring ourselves, our gifts, and our resources together that God may be glorified.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “Brightest and Best” arr. Ritchie and Amidon *Elaine Chague, soloist*

Hail the blest morn see the great mediator, down from the regions of glory descend.
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger, Lo, for a guard the bright angels attend.

Refrain:

Brightest and best are the sons of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star in the east the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining; Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Wise men and shepherds before him do fall. *Refrain*

Say shall we yield him in costly devotion, odors of Edom and offerings divine;
Gems from the mountains and pearls from the ocean, myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine? *Refrain*

Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gold we his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart’s adoration; dearer to God are the prayers of the poor. *Refrain*

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS: *The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in common time (indicated by a '4' in the top left of each staff) and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The top staff uses a treble clef, and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The music is divided into two sections by a double bar line with repeat dots. The lyrics are as follows:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav’n-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! A-men.

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, we commit to use all our gifts
—wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing,
working of miracles, prophecy, discernment,
tongues, administration, hospitality,
and finances—
in the service of acting as co-workers
with you and each other
for peace and justice to flow like a mighty stream.

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People, ending with *The Lord's Prayer*

Many: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

(We invite you to use whatever words are most comfortable and useful to you as you pray *The Lord's Prayer*. For example, Our Father, Mother, Creator, Holy One, kin-dom...)

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

News

*Hymn — “Sing of God Made Manifest”

this bulletin p. 11

*Benediction

Let us go forth to celebrate and strengthen
our inescapable network of mutuality,
and become *the radiant hope* needed in the world.

As we go forth in this mutuality,
may we experience our God rejoicing over us and with us.

Let us go forth confident that
unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. Amen!

Postlude — “In Thee Is Gladness” by Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Call to Annual Business Meeting

Pursuant to the bylaws of our congregation...

The Members of the Storrs Congregational Church are called to the **Annual Business Meeting** of the congregation, to be held **January 30, 2022, following the Sunday morning worship service**. The meeting will be held in the same format as worship, in-person and/or online via **Zoom Meetings**. The business of said meeting shall be to receive yearly reports, fill elective offices, transact business, and discuss plans for the ensuing year. The presence and participation of all members is requested; a minimum of thirty is required to transact business. In the event that the scheduled meeting must be postponed due to weather or other emergency, it shall be held on the following Sunday.

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Attribution for cover photo: Swanson, John August. Wedding Feast, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://digilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58581> [retrieved January 12, 2022]. Original source: www.JohnAugustSwanson.com - copyright 1996 by John August Swanson.
- Phrases from the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. have been woven into the prayer texts. They are identified by italics. Texts of King's work are available in *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, edited by James M. Washington; © 1986 Coretta Scott King. A brief essay on King's understanding of the term "Beloved Community" is available at <http://www.wilpf.org/mlksbelovedcommunity>.
- Creating the Beloved Community: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany, Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend was written by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Founder and Director of the Center for Spiritual Light, New York City. (adapted for today's bulletin)
- Hymn - "Many Are the Lightbeams" Reprinted from *The New Century Hymnal*, © 1995 The Pilgrim Press, #163.
- Response - "Arise, Shine" Music: Ruth Cunningham. Used by permission.
- Presentation of our gifts - The Doxology: Text by Thomas Ken, 1674, alt. Music attrib. Louis Bourgeois; from *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.
- Hymn - "Sing of God Made Manifest" Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. 1990 Music: Jacob Hintze, 1678; arr. J.S. Bach Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #156. All rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182.

Music Notes:

Ruth Cunningham, the composer of our Epiphany response "Arise, Shine" was a founding member of the ensemble *Anonymous 4*, a women's quartet active from 1986-2016 that explored Medieval music replete with Old English pronunciations. From this background as a classically trained musician she is now a sound healing practitioner who plays the Medieval harp, Renaissance flute and recorder, piano and shruti box. The response we will sing was written for *Music That Makes Community*, a group that supports paperless singing. As we progress through the season of Epiphany we will add layers of sound to this chant-like response.

"Brightest and Best" comes from William Walker's *Southern Harmony* of 1835. Jean Ritchie brought it to popular attention by singing it, frequently accompanied by hammered dulcimer and flute. A recording of her singing is easily found online. Peter Amidon and his wife Mary Alice are based in Brattleboro, VT. They are composers, arrangers, and workshop leaders. The solo arrangement heard today is from their collection of *Fifty-Five Anthems for the Small Church Choir*. We borrowed from Ritchie for this revised version.

Many Are the Lightbeams

163

Cyprian of Carthage, "De unitate ecclesiae," 252 C.E.
Swedish paraphr. by Anders Frostenson (b. 1906)
Transl. David Lewis, 1983

John 8:12; 9:5; 15:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:4-27; Gal. 3:28

Unison

Em Em7 Am B7 Em Am

1 Man - y are the light-beams from the one light. Our one
2 Man - y are the branch-es of the one tree. Our one
3 Man - y are the gifts given, love is all one. Love's the
4 Man - y ways to serve God, the Spir - it is one; scr - vant
5 Man - y are the mem - bers, the bod - y is one; mem - bers

Dsus4 D7 G Am7 D7

light is Je - sus. Man - y are the light-beams
tree is Je - sus. Man - y are the branch-es
gift of Je - sus. Man - y are the gifts given,
spir - it of Je - sus. Man - y ways to serve God, the
all of Je - sus. Man - y are the mem - bers, the

GM7 C7 Em B7 Em

from the one light; we are one in Christ.
of the one tree; we are one in Christ.
love is all one; we are one in Christ.
Spir - it is one; we are one in Christ.
bod - y is one; we are one in Christ.

D7 G Am B7 Em

The text upon which this hymn is based is by a bishop of the early church, Cyprian of Carthage. It was paraphrased from his 252 C.E. work, "De unitate ecclesiae" (Of church unity). He was martyred in Carthage c. 258.

Tune: LIGHTBEAMS Irr.
Olle Widstrand (b. 1906)
Arr. Darryl Nixon, 1987

Sing of God Made Manifest 156



1 Sing of God made man - i-fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2 Sing of God made man - i-fest when at Jor - dan John con-fessed,
 3 Sing of God made man - i-fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
 4 Sing of God made man - i-fest on the cloud-capped moun-tain's crest,



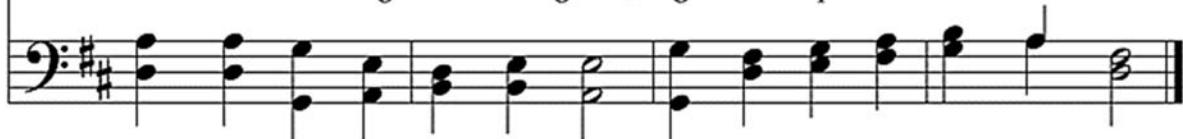
to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid-ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re-mained:



ma - gi came and gifts un-bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove-like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face



myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
 hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.



Life at SCC...Today...

10:00 a.m.	Worship (MH & Zoom/YouTube)
after worship	Fellowship Conversation (Meeting House)
after worship	Library open (CE – Library)
11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open (CE – Food Pantry)
3:00 p.m.	Task Force for Resuming In Person Gatherings Meeting (Zoom)
7:30 p.m.	Sunday Speaker Group (Auditorium)
	<i>MH = Meeting House CE = Christian Education Bldg.</i>
	<i>PH = Parish House</i>

Worship

Every Sunday, 10:00 am, in the Meeting House and on Zoom & YouTube. Expressive, participatory liturgy; thoughtful preaching; and a soul-stirring blend of new and traditional music are some of the elements you can expect to encounter each Sunday.

Assisting in today's service ...

Liturgist: Jamie Lang-Rodean

Greeter: Sue Irvine

Ushers: Ray Joesten, Jane Joesten, Robert Jeffers

Welcome Table Host: Anne Usher

Tech Team: Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine

Sanctuary Flowers: If you'd like to sign up to dedicate flowers in 2022 the new sign up sheet is available in the Parish House. Sign up during the week or contact Deborah in the office to reserve special dates if you'd rather not come into the Parish House at this time.

Other News

2021 Annual Report Timeline: The time has come to prepare the annual report for last year and celebrate the undertakings, challenges and victories of 2021. The report will be presented to the congregation on January 23rd in preparation for the Annual Meeting, the following Sunday, January 30th. **Please submit your report to Deborah via email to sccoffice@storrscongchurch.org by Tuesday, January 18th.**

SCC Book Discussion Group: *Our next book discussion is March 20th, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom where we will discuss:*

SMALL GREAT THINGS by Jodi Picoult

In preparing to write *SMALL GREAT THINGS*, a book that deals with race, privilege, prejudice, justice and compassion, the author did much research. The title refers to a Martin Luther King quote, "If I can't do great things, I can do simple things in a great way."

Turk, a white supremacist, and Brittany Bauer come to the delivery room for the birth of their baby and demand that Ruth Jefferson, an African American nurse, have no interaction with their son. Ruth has the choice to heed her humanity and her oath as a nurse to follow orders. She follows her own beliefs but can't prevent serious consequences. She is charged with felony crimes. The story continues as racism shines through aspects of character and plot.

Food Pantry Needs

Our Food Pantry is vital to many of our international students who are still in the UConn area despite the delay to resuming on campus classes. We are thankful for the supplies available from Foodshare but still, many of our bins are quite empty and household supplies are nonexistent. In addition to food, **we are also happy to accept kitchen items such as pans, bowls, cooking utensils, measuring cups, baking trays, etc.** these items are greatly appreciated by our Food Pantry guests. **Additionally, pet and personal hygiene items** are needed since these types of items are not available through Foodshare at all.

Here are some suggested food items that are always needed:

- Cereal (hot or cold)
- Jelly & Jam
- Tuna Fish (or any canned meat)
- Mayonnaise
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Dinners (raviolis, beef stew)
- Pasta & Sauce
- Ramen Noodles
- Rice
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Soap

You can bring your contributions to the Parish House and leave them in the Food Pantry or bring them with you to Worship on Sunday and leave them on the table in the Narthex.

Advent Wreath Supplies

Please return Advent Wreaths supplies to the box in the Parish House Lounge so that we can store everything away until next year when we will gather again to decorate and use them in anticipation of Christmas! Please do not return partially used candles. Thank you!

Updated Church Directory

Our Faith Family has had some comings and goings in the past year and contact information may have changed for folks you are trying to reach. Also, you may have had some changes this year, such as moving to a new location, dropping your landline or changing your email address. If you've had any changes, please contact the office with updates to your contact information so that the Church Directory information is accurate.

Church Directories are available in the Parish House Lounge or via email by request through the office.

Office & Facilities Closed Monday

The office and facilities will be closed on Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday. The Food Pantry will be open in the Education Building from 1:00 – 3:00 PM with fresh produce and perishable items available.

SCC Weekly Prayer Circle



May you be blessed in the holy names of those who, without you knowing it, help to carry and lighten your pain.
(To Bless the Space Between Us by John O'Donohue)

Please hold the following prayer requests in your heart this week, and the needs that remain unspoken in our hearts.

- In thanksgiving, that Charles Chester is feeling better. He welcomes phone calls.
- Heartfelt sympathy for Nate Holmy whose grandfather, John, died this past Tuesday. May God bring comfort to all.
- For all who are suffering from Covid or impacted in some way by Covid-19.
- For all who are impacted by the deadly blaze in the Bronx apartment building that killed 17 people and left many more fighting for their lives.
- Be Like Brit: 12th Anniversary Remembrance of the January 12 earthquake, 1/12/20: Twelve years ago today Britney had just spent her first night on her humanitarian mission trip in Haiti. She woke up inspired and texted her mom:

"They love us so much and everyone is so happy.

They love what they have and they work so hard to get no where, yet they are all so appreciative. I want to move here and start an orphanage myself."

Just 3 hours after Britney sent that text, the 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck devastating the country of Haiti. Today, and every day, we remember Britney and the 300,000+ others who lost their lives on January 12, 2010. Because of Britney's compassion for Haiti, her last wish came true, and with an outpouring of help, the orphanage she dreamed of in that text was built, outreach opportunities are continually identified, over 90 jobs have been created, 150 homes for families have been created, and the next generations of leaders in Haiti are being raised.

O God of all comfort, we ask you to be with these loved ones and all others who are struggling today, and wrap them in your compassionate care. Especially those who have lost loved ones in these and other tragic disasters, may the lives of loved ones be not in vain, but may their legacies continue as you use the gift of their lives for the greater good of humankind. Restore their families and survivors and help them achieve relief from their pain and struggles both physical and emotional. We trust in your wisdom and care, and pray that you will give them healing, strength, and peace. Amen. ~Prayer by Ellen Bradley

Prayer requests can be given to Pastor Debbie as usual; or to Ellen, by email. As a reminder, due to HIPAA regulations, we are unable to publish prayer requests intended for someone else without that person's permission.

This Week...

Monday ~ Martin Luther King Jr. Observed Office & Buildings Closed

- 1:00 pm Food Pantry Open (*Room 102*)

Tuesday

- 9:30 am Library Open
- 6:30 pm Pastoral Search (*Lounge*)

Wednesday

- 10:00 am Parish Piecers, (*Quilt Room*)
- 10:00 am Quiet Reflection (*Chapel*)
- 10:30 am C.A.F.E. Storrs (*Lounge/Zoom*)
- 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (*Lounge*)

Thursday

- 2:30 pm Food Pantry Open (*Room 102*)
- 6:30 pm Handbells, (*MH/Zoom*)
- 7:30 pm Adult Choir (*MH/Zoom*)
- 7:30 pm Step Meeting (*Room 201*)

Friday

- 7:00 pm Recovery Meeting (*Room 201*)

Sunday

- **10:00 am Worship (*MH & Online*)**
- 11:00 am Library open (*CE - Library*)
- 11:00 am Fellowship Conversation (*MH & Zoom*)
- 11:00 am Food Pantry Open (*Room 102*)
- 7:30 pm Speaker Group (*Auditorium*)

We envision our community as a **welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community**. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

We share in God's love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.

Ministers All of the Congregation

Interim Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Debra Pallatto-Fontaine – revdebbie@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 23

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Director of Faith Formation Lisa Haupt – lisa@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 22

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