



# Bethlehem

## United Methodist Church

JANUARY 23, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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### GATHERING AND PRAISE

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#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of power and wonder, we are awestruck by the glory of your presence.

All: **We rejoice at what we can see; we marvel at what we cannot see.**

Leader: You dazzle us with your brightness

All: **You overshadow us as with a great cloud.**

Leader: Loving, protecting, challenging, nurturing, you strengthen and transform us.

All: **May we love and serve you in all that we are and do. Glory be to You. Amen.**

HYMN                    "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" (UMH #344)

**Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.**

#### CHORUS:

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

**You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
you will find there my nets and labor. CHORUS**

**You need my hands, full of caring through my labors to give others rest,  
and constant love that keeps on loving. CHORUS**

**You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me. CHORUS**

#### OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, from the beginning you call us, setting us apart with a meaning and a purpose. Although we doubt ourselves, you reassure us in many and various ways through the course of our days. Thank you for meeting us here to challenge us, sustain us, fill us anew, and empower us to do your kingdom work. May your love be experienced through us, by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

CALL TO PRAYER                    "Spirit of the Living God" (UMH #393)

**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.**

#### MORNING PRAYER

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

**trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING for OFFERING, TITHES, AND GIFTS**

OFFERTORY

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

*Hayes/Gaspard*

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**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

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SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12: 12-22 (CEB)

<sup>12</sup> Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. <sup>13</sup> We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Certainly the body isn’t one part but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, “I’m not part of the body because I’m not a hand,” does that mean it’s not part of the body? <sup>16</sup> If the ear says, “I’m not part of the body because I’m not an eye,” does that mean it’s not part of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. <sup>19</sup> If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? <sup>20</sup> But as it is, there are many parts but one body. <sup>21</sup> So the eye can’t say to the hand, “I don’t need you,” or in turn, the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” <sup>22</sup> Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary.

HYMN

*“Many Gifts, One Spirit” (UMH #114)*

**God of change and glory, God of time and space, When we fear the future,  
Give to us your grace. In the midst of changing ways Give us still the grace to praise.**

**CHORUS: Many gifts, one Spirit, One love known in many ways.  
In our difference is blessing, From diversity we praise  
One Giver, one Lord, One Spirit, one Word Known in many ways, Hallowing our days.  
For the Giver, for the gifts, Praise, praise, praise!**

**God of many colors, God of many signs, You have made us different, Blessing many kinds.  
As the old ways disappear, Let your love cast out our fear.**

**CHORUS**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 4: 14-21 (CEB)

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, <sup>9</sup>and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.* <sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>20</sup> He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> He began to explain to them, “Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it.”

## ANTHEM

**“Go Light Your World”**

Allen Pote

## SERMON

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon... US!”

Rev. Susan Hughes

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS LITANY

God of love and comfort, today we celebrate a special ministry. We give thanks for the opportunity – out of love and out of concern for our Christian brothers and sisters – to share a tangible gift to those in need, the prayer shawl. While we know that you are always present in our lives and that your love transcends all tragedy, illness and pain, we also know that sometimes a tangible example of your love and care can bring hope, healing and peace to someone who is crying out. We pray that these prayer shawls, lap blankets, and baby blankets bring comfort to those who will receive them.

O God, open our eyes so that we might see, open our ears so that we might hear and open our minds so that we might know who is in need of your healing power and presence. Open our hearts so that we might reach out to them.

Without even knowing who would receive it, these shawls were made specifically for each person who will receive them.

**May they see the intricate love and care given to their shawl, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows upon all people.**

These shawls were made to bring warmth to those who feel a chill.

**May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.**

These shawls were made to bring comfort to those who feel alone.

**May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.**

These shawls were made to bring peace to those in need of prayer.

**May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.**

These shawls were made to remind the recipients that they are part of this community.

## “Together We Serve” (UMH #2175)

Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast.

**We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.**  
We learn, work, pray to let the Kingdom of God come. Christ is our cornerstone, a model

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.

Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

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SENDING FORTH

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BENEDICTION

CLOSING

“As We Go” (W&S 3183)

**As we go, may your Spirit go before us. As we go, may we follow where you lead.  
May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard,  
And be a light unto the world as we go.**