

Prophet on the Edge

Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 2, 2025

A wholeheartedly inclusive Christian community
called by a challenging and progressive faith
to live lives of love and justice

Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

Participant ID (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**
Meeting Password: **760760**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERIES

REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES: SEARCH OUT THE LIGHT

With Music

Cornerstone

Words and music by J. Myrin, r. Morgan, E. Liljero
and E. Mote
Arr Mark Hayes

With Meditation

“Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can’t practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage.”

- Maya Angelou

*Please stand in body or spirit

INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

Responsive Prayer

Ministry Matters/Worship Elements

O God, in the midst of the cacophony of voices
that crush our spirit and deny our calling,
voices that say,
“Who do you think you are?”

**we come to hear your voice of affirmation;
we come to hear your voice
calling us to be and do
what you have called us to be and do.**

Let this time of worship quiet our fears,
soothe our bruised souls,
and energize us for ministry
in and with your beloved world.

**Let faith abide.
Let hope abide.
Let love abide—
here in this sanctuary,
here in our community,
here in our world,
but most of all, here in us. Amen.**

*HYMN *God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak* #531 (see insert)

*SHARING GOD’S PEACE
The Peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

We share “happenings” in the community, and lift up concerns for prayer.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES

Reading from the Prophets

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Reading from the Letters

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Sermon

“Doubt Not”

Rev. Edmonds

CALL TO COMMUNION

Hymn

Take My Life, God, Let It Be #448

(see insert)

We have been called to speak and to live out the radical, abiding love of God in the world. We do so by offering all that we are, all that we do, and all that we have, knowing that God will use us and our gifts to bring the beloved community ever closer to being realized in this world.

Oh God, We’re just ordinary folks.

What do you expect us to do?

We hear your call, but we believe

You’d do better to find someone else—

someone more articulate,

someone with more courage,

someone with more faith.

But your call and your promise persist.

Forgive our feet of clay—

when we try and evade your call,

when we make excuses,

**when we doubt your presence,
when we reject your prophets,
when we reject ourselves.
In the opportunities and challenges in our lives,
help us see that you are there,
and help us respond in faith, hope, and love.**

CONSECRATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION AS WE PARTAKE

(an offering plate is available by the door in the Narthex or you may mail your gift)

Sanctuary

John Thompson and Randy Scruggs
Arr Marianne Kim

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD’S PRAYER

**Gracious and loving God,
We give thanks for the gifts we have received
and commend our lives and our treasure again to you,
They have belonged to you
since our very beginning.
We give them freely, joyfully, prayerfully.
With them we praise you.
With them we celebrate the great power
that is love—
a love that abides always,
a love that radically transforms,
a love that makes us whole. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (using “debts” and “debtors”)

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 the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN *Called as Partners in Christ's Service #495* (see insert)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Here I Am Lord* Daniel L. Schutte
Arr Marianne Kim & John Carter

WELCOME!

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity today! If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask the pastor!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

847-722-6756
PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

Acting Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

Acting Office Manager

Heather Hughes

Lay Officers

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Treasurer

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Church Office Hours

Church Website

Scott Peterson
Karen Kerschke
tuccdf@gmail.com
847-945-5050
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Prayer Concerns

All those impacted by wildfires

Marge Magnani

For those grieving for Rev. Dr. Leroy Sanders

Rev. Bonnie Condon as she enters her final days

Mary Ellen Wasowski, Lucy's sister-in-law, who recently had surgery to remove a brain tumor

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Roger Simonson

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

Skip Hahn

Nancy Rose, Barbara Struthers' sister

Irene Santos and Family on the sudden passing of her brother

Carmen Ruiz & Fernando Rodriguez, Barbara Struthers' daughter-in-law's parents in Puerto Rico

Erica Sufritz, friend of Barbara Struthers

Rev. Bonnie Haase

The People of Ukraine and Leaders of all nations

For youth who feel alienated or without hope

For all whose lives are torn by disasters of human making

For those suffering devastation in the Middle East

For all whose lives have been torn apart by natural disasters around the globe

***Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**

Prophet on the Edge

Jesus just couldn't stop with a feel-good message for the friends and relatives gathered to hear him teach in his hometown synagogue.

That day, among those who had watched him grow up, Jesus pushed the God envelope, informing the congregation that the miracles they heard him perform in Capernaum were not happening anytime soon in Nazareth.

What? Why not? Explain to us Jesus why you view the rejected, the afflicted and the outsider more worthy of healing than your own people? The mood quickly changes. The crowd goes from being impressed to being enraged.

It was one thing to hear about the blind receiving sight and the prisoners being set free, as Jesus' read for them from the scroll. Those words had been spoken before by other teachers. But those teachers let the words remain safely on the parchment. Jesus, though, expounds on the power and impact of God's word, making them leap with new life off the scroll and into the crowd.

Those in the synagogue should have seen it coming. Jesus did begin his teaching telling them that the Spirit of the Lord was upon him — and that Spirit does not sugarcoat anything.

Jesus knew that there was no such thing of a hometown advantage when it came to preaching God's truth. He wasn't surprised by the scoffer whispering loudly from the back of the room the derogatory comment, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

He wasn't surprised either when the crowd got violent, kicking him out of the synagogue and chasing him to a cliff on the edge of town.

He wasn't surprised, and neither should we be.

The adage that truth is hard to hear is true because truth never travels alone. Truth is always accompanied with change, and change is always greeted by yet another companion — resistance.

Jesus, our prophet on the edge — literally on the edge of a cliff and figuratively on the edge of making us all a bit uncomfortable — knew that while it was easier to tell people what they wanted to hear, half-truths and blatant lies wouldn't further God's vision of a peaceable kingdom. What would create a beloved community, where insiders and outsiders were one, was truth, which always asks for much-needed change.

Jesus is in our hometown this day. Will we listen with open ears and hearts to him? Or will we chase him away because we just aren't ready for the changes that the truth will ask of us?

Patient and Loving God, every time we pray "thy kingdom come" we realize that we do not fully grasp what that kingdom is. Your ways differ from ours. Help us to listen to your Holy Voice and, in the listening may we find the courage to hear truths that will lead to changing this world for the better. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



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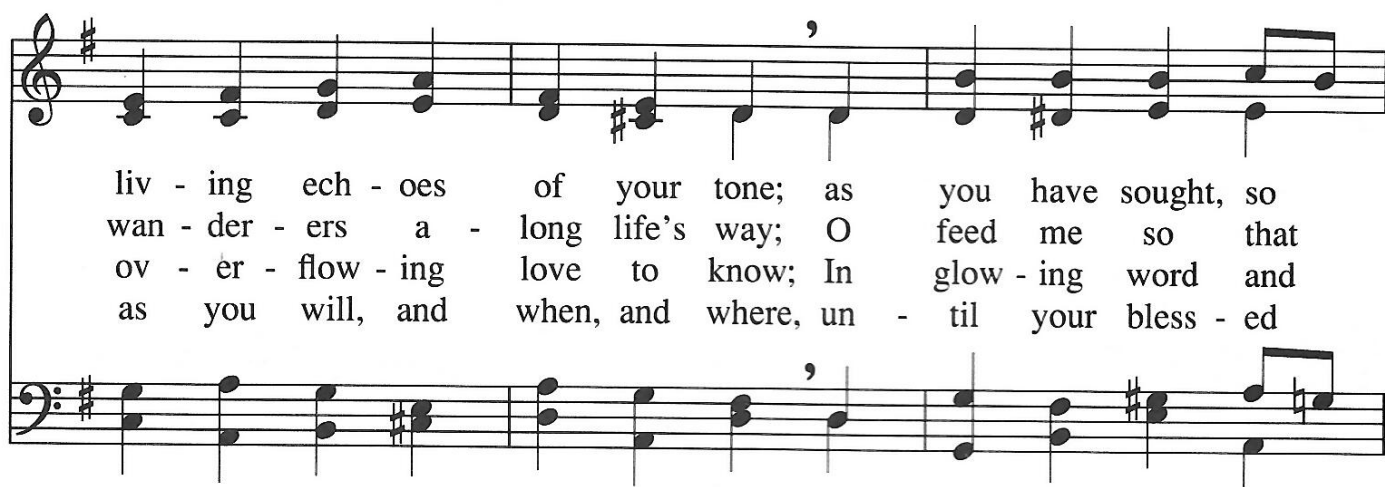
8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.


1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
 Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.

Justin H. Knecht, 1797

Alternate tune: HENDON

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

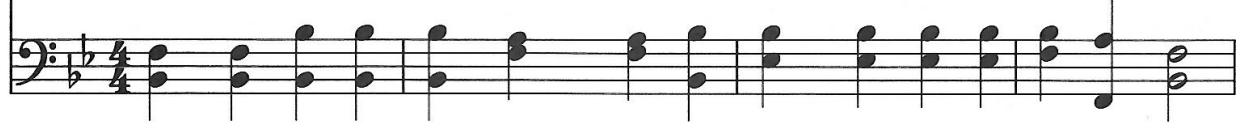
495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368