



## **Kent United Church of Christ**

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, W.I.S.E.,  
and CREATION JUSTICE CONGREGATION*

### **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**January 18, 2026**

**10am**

BELLS

PRELUDE

*Talk About a Child That Do Love Jesus*

American Spiritual  
arr. Calvin Taylor

GREETING

Rev. Amy Gopp, senior minister

INTROIT

*This is the Day the Lord has Made*

Marty Haugen

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sophia Hayden, liturgist

Come, you who are searching.

Come, you who are weary.

Come, you who are unsure what you are looking for.

God meets us not with demands,  
but with invitation.

Here, Christ turns toward us and asks,  
"What are you looking for?"

Here, the Spirit invites us to stay,  
to listen,  
to see.

Come and worship.  
Come and see what love is doing among us.

\*OPENING HYMN #167      *Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering*      RENDEZ A DIEU

\*INVOCATION      Sophia Hayden

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST      Pastor Amy  
The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE      Pastor Emily  
*"Jesus Loves the Little Children" is sung to bless the children.*

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN      John 1:29-42  
Here ends the reading from God's word.  
**Thanks be to God, who is still speaking.**

SERMON      *Come and See*      Pastor Amy

ANTHEM      *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*      Adapted Tune by George Allen  
Text by Thomas A. Dorsey and Joyce Merman  
Chancel Choir

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Bring me home through the night,  
Through the dark, through the storm,  
To Thy light.  
I have been to the mount,  
I have seen the Promised Land:  
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Bring Thy child home at last,  
Where the strife and the pain

All are past;  
I have dreamed a great dream  
That Thy love shall rule our land:  
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Take Thy child unto Thee,  
With my dream of a world that is free  
For that day when all flesh  
Joins the glory Thou hast planned.  
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Thomas Dorsey (1899-1993) was born in Georgia. His father was a Baptist preacher, and his mother a piano teacher. He was known as the "Father of Black Gospel Music." Dorsey was converted in 1928 and became active in Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago. Beginning in 1932, he served as the church's choir director for forty years. Of his 1,000 musical works, at least 200 were gospel songs. He promoted the gospel song through the formation of the National Association of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, serving as the organization's president.

In 1932, Dorsey reluctantly went to St. Louis to sing as soloist at the revival meeting. His wife, Nettie, was in her last month of pregnancy and he would have rather stayed home with her. While at the meeting, he received a telegram that simply stated YOUR WIFE JUST DIED. Dorsey stated,  
"When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart. For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him any more or write gospel songs. I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. . .

"But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially a friend, Professor Frye, who seemed to know what I needed. On the following Saturday evening he took me up to Malone's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows. I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys."

That evening, Dorsey wrote "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." He gave the song to Frye who introduced it to the choir at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church the next Sunday, an event that, Dorsey later remarked, "tore up the church." Martin Luther King, Sr. was the pastor of Ebenezer at this time, beginning his ministry there in 1931.

Martin Luther King Jr. drew inspiration from this, his favorite song. It was sung at the rally in Memphis the night before the civil-rights leader's assassination. President Lyndon B. Johnson requested that "Precious Lord" be sung at his funeral. The arrangement we sing today uses slightly different words that were written in response to the tragic death of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Amy

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

MOMENT FOR CREATION

Al Barber, creation justice team

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #554 *Out of the Depths, O God, We Call*

FENNVILLE

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Sophia Hayden

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Amy

\*CLOSING HYMN #576

*For the Healing of the Nations*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Amy

\*POSTLUDE

*Saints Bound for Heaven*

arr. Edward Broughton

*Our service has ended. Now our service begins.  
You are the Body of Christ, and the whole world awaits y*



**KENT**   
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

2025–2026  
Concert Series

## Cleveland Chamber Choir

*Gregory Ristow, artistic director*



**Friday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.**

*Cleveland's premier professional choir presents "Love in Bloom", an enchanting evening of music inspired by romance and nature, including music by Benjamin Britten, Tōru Takemitsu, Eric Whitacre, Morten Lauridsen and Brandon Waddles.*

*Kent's Theodore Roosevelt High School Choir will join the performance, as part of the choir's continuing commitment to education and providing invaluable experiences to future generations of musicians.*

**Charles Edward McGuire, PhD, from Oberlin College & Conservatory, will present a pre-concert talk 45 minutes prior to the performance.**

**Admission is FREE**

*A free-will offering will be collected.*

**Rutter Requiem**

*Saturday, March 28, 7:00 p.m.*

**Gabriel Lane & David Lawrence**

*Saturday, April 25, 7:00 p.m.*

*All performances are in the sanctuary of Kent United Church of Christ  
1400 E Main St, Kent, OH 44240*