



Epiphany Sunday

Prelude

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Gathering—Today brings renewal to our lives. We will see with fresh eyes. Today brings fresh promises. We will be vulnerable to new ideas. Today brings new opportunities to share. We will welcome the stranger through kinship with Christ.~

****Hymn**

Arise, Your Light Is Come, 231

Prayer—Maker of all things new, as we enter into worship, we are excited for what comes next. You have a time and purpose for everyone we encounter and for every season under heaven. Help us see with new eyes and hear with new ears, that we might leave with a new understanding of what brings heaven to earth. In Christ's name, we pray.~

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.

2025 Ministry Blessings

Council Installation

President – Michelle Van Dyke

Vice President – Kaylee Gephart Kile

Secretary – Kim Hadley

Treasurer – Terri Bennett

Financial Secretary – Cindy Yenna

Buildings and Grounds – Greg Law

Ministry Team Commissioning

Care Team

Faith Formation

Fundraising Team

Kitchen Team

Pastor Parish Relations

Prayer Chain

Scripture Readers

Service Team

Worship Team

Worship Tech Stewards

Music Ministries (Choir and Bell Choir)

Fellowship Groups (Grief Support, Young Adults, Pairs and Spares, Golden Friends)

UCC Statement of Faith (see back of hymnal)

Zion United Church of Christ Mission Statement—United by Christ's loving embrace, a welcoming light in an unsure world, we serve and enrich the community and provide a safe gathering space for fellowship, spiritual growth, and self-exploration.

We Hear God's Word—*John 1:1-18 (CEB)*

Greg Miller

¹ In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

² The Word was with God in the beginning.

³ Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.

What came into being

⁴ through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

⁶ A man named John was sent from God. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. ⁸ He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

⁹ The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.

¹⁰ The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.

¹¹ The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.

¹² But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,

¹³ born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,

glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;

¹⁷ as the Law was given through Moses,
so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God.

God the only Son,
who is at the Father's side,
has made God known.

Meditation

The Phenomenon of Light

Star Words—As that spark of holy light shone in the beginning and is shining even now, may your star word help illuminate the year ahead, revealing grace and truth day by day. "By the radiance of your star and the power of the Holy Spirit, may you live with deeper intention and greater attention; may you find the holy in delightfully unexpected places; may you worship with joy, give with gratitude, and follow the new way home that God will provide."¹

We Gather at the Table

Hymn

Angels, from the Realms of Glory, 189

Set Your Place at the Table—For those worshipping with us at home, please use whatever you have on hand to represent the bread and the cup.

Our Invitation—Arise; shine, for the light of Christ is shining upon and within us. Arise; receive, for the grace of Christ is flowing in and through these gifts. Gather around. These gifts are available to all.~

A Prayer for Transformation—Holy God, all things came into being through you. You enlighten our lives. Yet, we are drawn to shadows and veils. We distance ourselves from the conditions of oppression and despair of our neighbors, and we hide from your displeasure and disappointment at our limited allegiance to the kingdom. Ignite a hunger and thirst for righteousness, justice, and truth in us. Spark compassion in our hearts. Make us a righteous

¹ <https://spaciousfaith.com/2023/01/04/worship-words-star-words-for-epiphany/>

branch in the vineyard. In the name of Jesus and hope of restoration, we pray.
Amen.+

Assurance of Grace—Beloved, trust that the grace of God has appeared, bringing new life to all. Receive the gifts of grace and mercy from the Compassion One who recognizes your repentance, comes to you in your weakness, offers strength for transformation, provides encouragement for repair, and grants forgiveness for sin.+

The Words of Institution—We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks..., broke it, and give it to the disciples, saying: “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.`

Blessing Our Meal—God of grace and glory, pour out your power and presence on these gifts of bread and wine. May they be for us the very presence of Christ in our midst. Pour out your power and presence on us, that we may become Christ for your world: Light upon light, Grace upon grace, Gift upon gift, for all the world to know and receive. Amen.~

We Share the Bread and the Cup

We Give Thanks—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.`

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Every gift we have comes as part of God’s good creation. Let us honor and participate in Creator’s vision of true peace, flourishing, and abundance by prioritizing the needs of others over the excesses of self. Let us embrace gift-giving as our love language and commitment. May our generosity be a witness to the world of the Living God among us.+

January Benevolence—Zion Emergency Assistance Fund

****Doxology**

****We Give Thanks**—Giving God, may these gifts reveal your greatness, generosity, and glory. We give thanks for the privilege of being in communal and covenantal care with our neighbors as manifested by the sharing of resources. Amen.+

****Hymn**

The First Noel, 229

****Benediction**—Arise; shine! The world needs our light. Go forth with grace and love. Every person needs our grace and love. Go forth with the gift of Christ's presence. Christ's presence will save us all. Amen.~

Postlude

Joy to the World

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