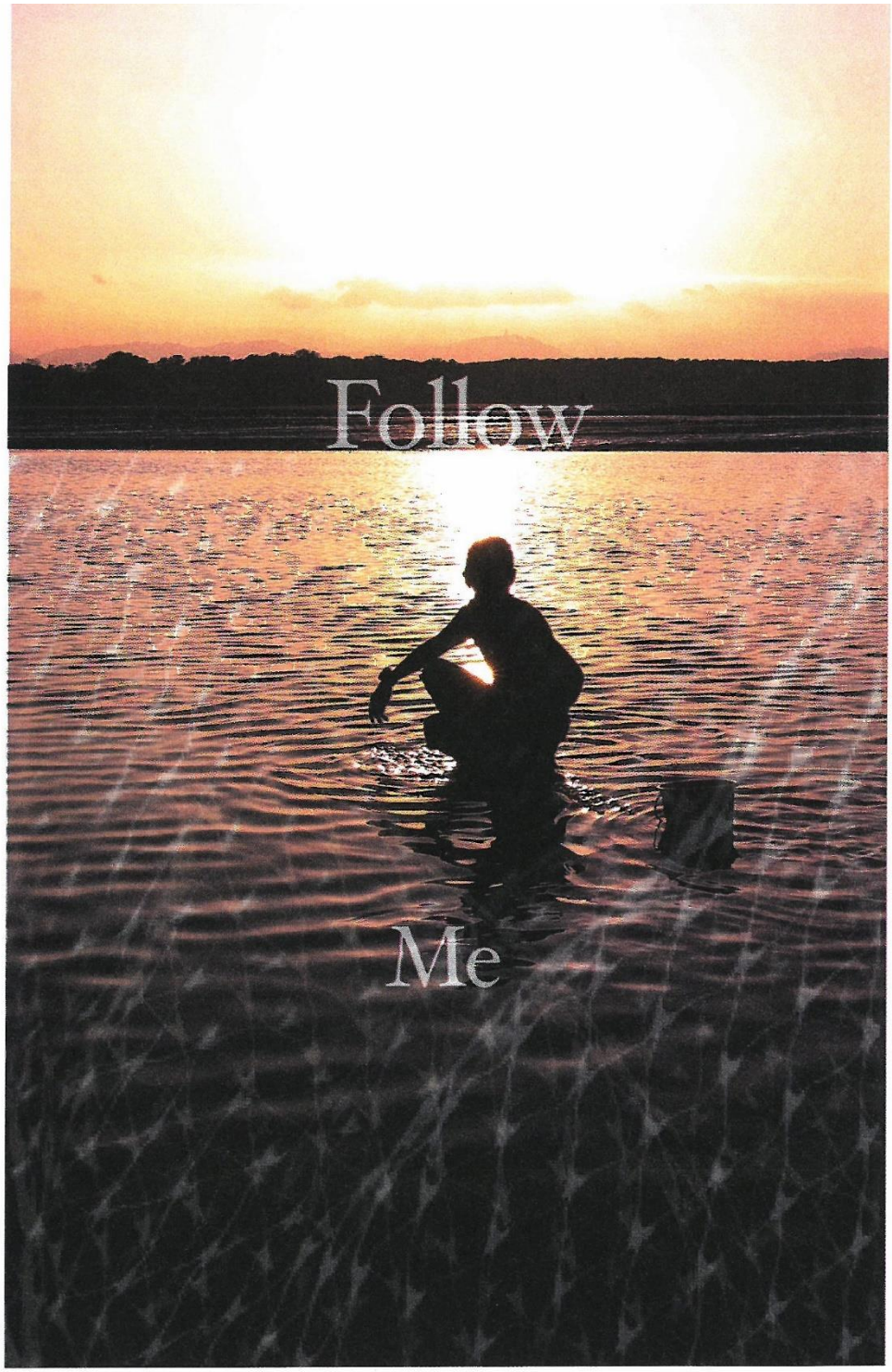
Follow
Me

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

For Children: Please feel free to attend services with your children. For the safety of the children, staff and volunteers ERUCC will not be providing childcare during services until further notice. Your children are welcome to bring their own quiet activities, no materials will be provided. Please take ALL personal items with you after the service.

We have removed all items from the pew racks for your safety. Music selections will be provided within this bulletin. If you are visiting and did not stop at the welcome desk in the downstairs lobby please stop by after the service they would love to meet you or, please feel free to reach out to someone sitting near you and ask them questions about the service or church. Many of our visitors ask us about the time of offering. This is a time in our service when we respond to God's gifts of love by offering the gifts of our lives. For many of us, this is when we make a financial gift towards the ministries and programs of our church. We also use this time to ask God how we might use the gifts of our hands and hearts in sharing God's love. If you are visiting, there is no obligation to give a financial gift. We are just glad you are worshiping with us. At this time we are taking offering at the end of the service. Plates will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary, Thank you.

We ask that you please silence your cell phones during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Rest rooms (equipped with changing stations) are located on the first floor of the church building and outside the Community Room and the Nursery.

There is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: www.erucc.org .

Donate online by scanning this code:
or you may use our new texting donation system. Send a donation amount to 301-804-2933 . You will receive a text back within minutes with a link. Click the secure link and provide your method of payment and a receipt will be sent to you! Or, download the GivePlus Church application and make your donation via the app.

Thank you.

Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church
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Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus (faw500@msn.com)
Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry (ksexton@erucc.org)
Alison E. Shafer, Music Director● Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director
Sherry Murray, Nursery● Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.
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EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

January 24, 2021 Third Sunday After Epiphany 10:30 a.m.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

We gather to respond to the call of God's love
Thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us.
May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.
Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.
Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.
May our gathering beckon and welcome
those near and far to know the love of this divine presence.

***Opening Prayer**

From deep within us we know of a loving presence.
All around us we see glory, beauty, life and light.
We have no words for what we experience so we cry out, "God!".
In this moment of worship may that loving presence grow deeper,
may our awareness of the divine presence around us grow more intense.
May we, gathered in this place, learn to pay more attention to God,
who loves us at all times and in all places.
God, of love and life, in this moment of prayer
be more and more in us
that we might live more and more in you. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** *God Is Truly with Us* *# 68*
See back of bulletin

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share
here in this sacred space and among this loving community.
We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience.
Forgive us when we are reluctant to open our doors,

open our hearts to others; some like us, some not.
We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness
to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies
for fear they just might become friends. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

The one who calls us to this place
calls us to reconciliation through grace.
Know that you are forgiven
and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. **Amen.**

Thought For the Day

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 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, for ever. Amen.

The Scripture

Jonah 3:1-5
Mark 1:14-20
Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

Gestures of gratitude are a demonstration that a blessing or benefit has been received.
We heard a call, dropped our nets and came to this place to find new life.
The gifts we give today are but tokens of the blessings of the new life we live in Christ.
Bring your gifts with joy for they remind us of just how blessed we are to know this love that flows so generously from the spirit of God.

Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Lives to Christ's Service

Anthem *We Are Not Alone* *- P. Choplin*
ERUCC Singers

***Closing Hymn** *You Have Come down to the Lakeshore* *# 173*
See back of bulletin

***Benediction**

Now may the One who is faithful to all
be with us all as we depart this blessed place.
May we be a blessing to every place we go,
until we gather again. **Amen.**

***Postlude**

Worship Notes: The prayers for this morning were written by the Rev. Madison Shockley, pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, CA and a member of the board of directors of ProgressiveChristianity.org. Copyright 2014 Local Church Ministries, Faith Formation Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education.

WATCH WORSHIP LIVE

Every Sunday at 10:30 https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzioh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi
Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w
You can get to the link on our homepage at www.erucc.org

The flowers on the altar this morning are in memory Michael Patrick Sexton, Sr., by Mike and Kim Sexton.

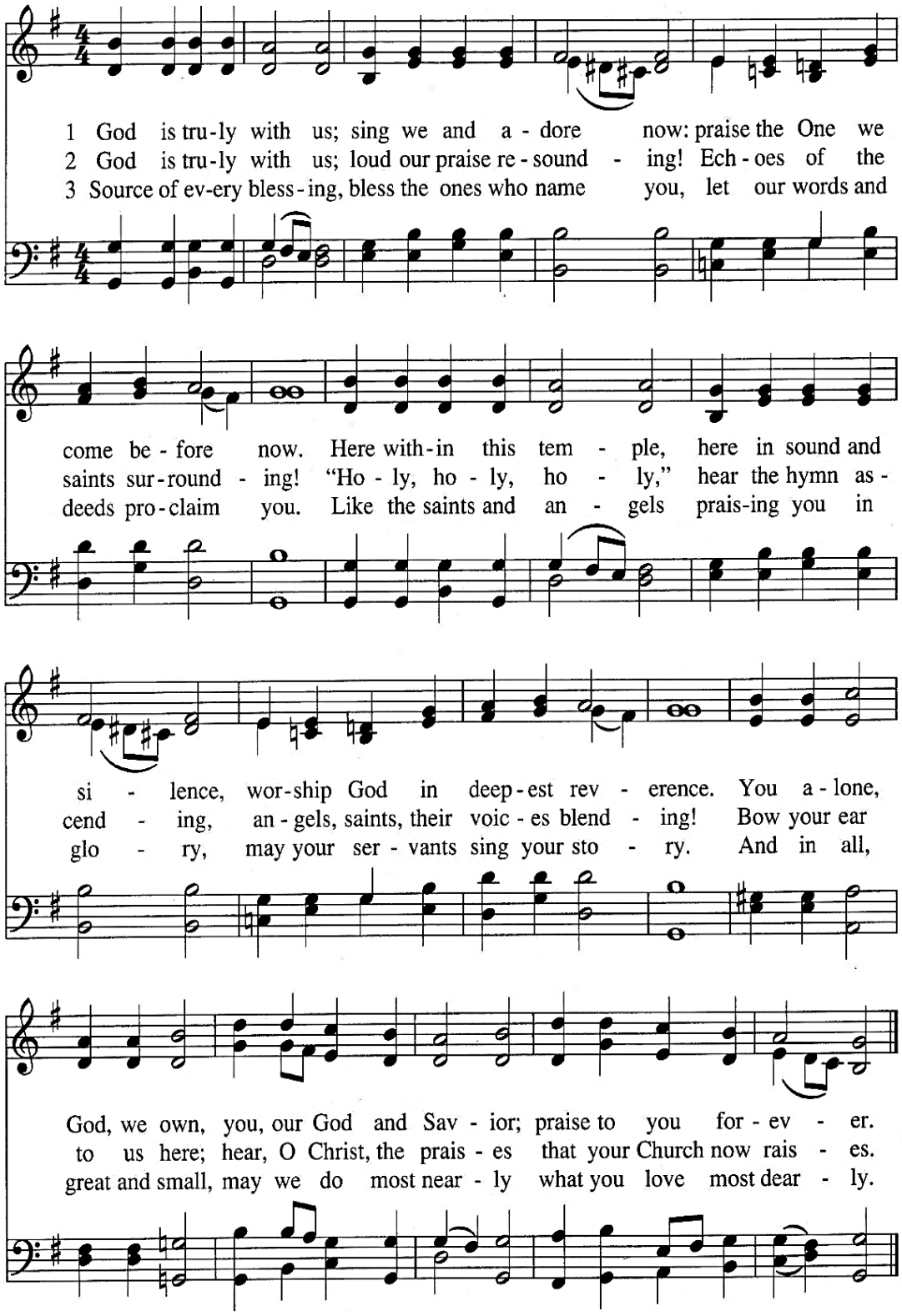
The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Karin and Jack Mens.

Worship Next Week: Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship Sunday 10:30 a.m.
January 31 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

In the gospel lesson, Mark 1: 21-28, Jesus is revealed as one who speaks and acts with God's authority. In the focus passage, Jesus teaches and casts out an unclean spirit. God will provide wisdom, courage, and power to those whom God calls to lead. In Deuteronomy 18:15–20, an account from near the end of Moses' life, Moses assures the people that God will raise up new prophets who will speak with God's authority just as Moses has.

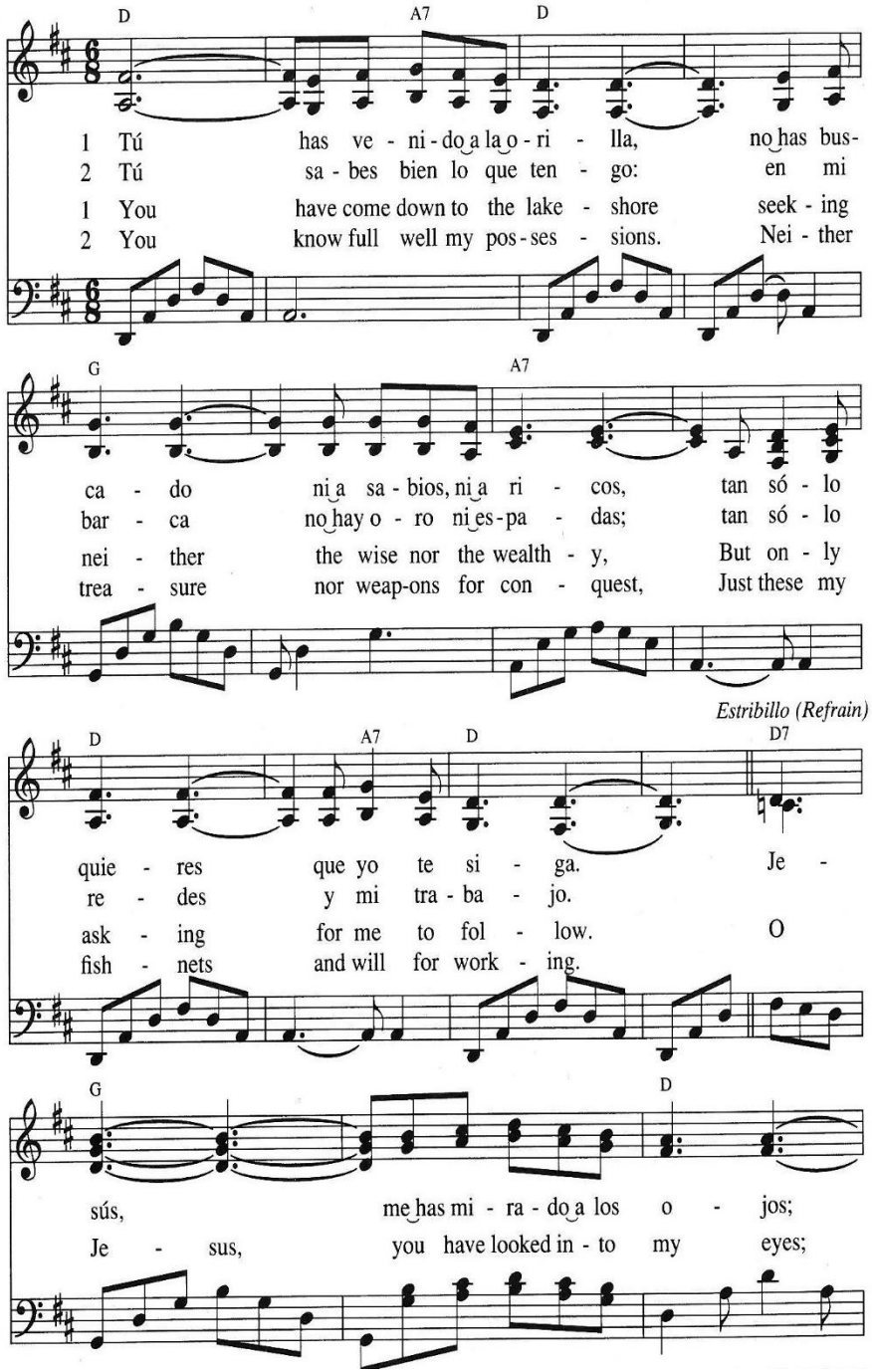
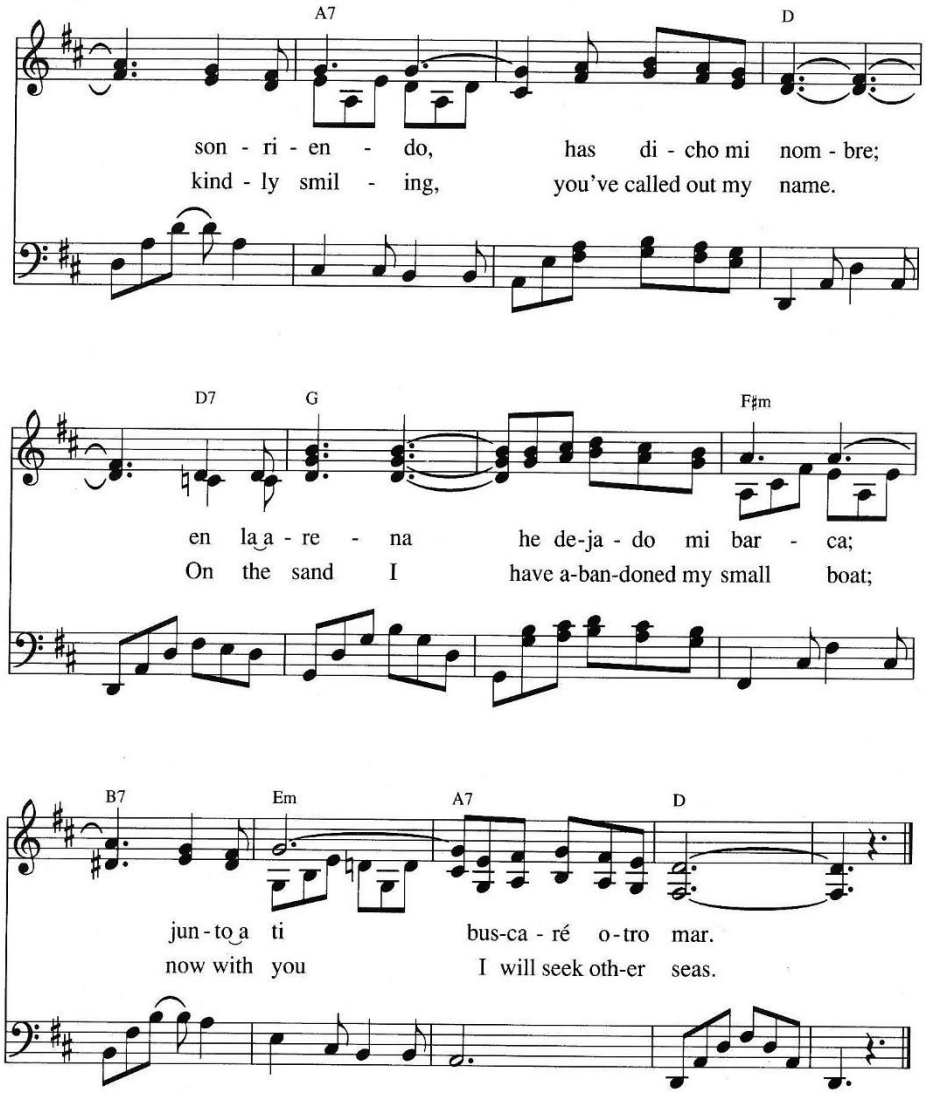
68 God Is Truly with Us

Matt. 1:23; 2 Cor. 9:8; Rev. 4:8–11

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1729
Transl. Frederick W. Foster and others; alt.

Tú has venido a la orilla

(You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

Matt. 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979; alt.
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1989; alt.

3. Tú ne-ce-si-tas mis ma-nos,
mi can-san-cio que a o-tros des-can-se,
a-mor que quie-ra se-guir a-man-do.
Estribillo

4. Tú, Pes-ca-dor de o-tros ma-res,
an-sia e-ter-na de al-mas que es-pe-ran.
A-mi-go bue-no, que a-sí me lla-mas.
Estribillo

3. You need my hands, my ex-haus-tion,
work-ing love for the rest of the wea-ry—
A love that's will-ing to go on lov-ing.
Refrain

4. You who have fished oth-er wa-ters;
you, the long-ing of souls that are yearn-ing:
As lov-ing Friend, you have come to call me.
Refrain

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 24, 2021 Mark 1:14-20

Follow Me
Ecumenical Sunday

Last summer, the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota galvanized the nation and sparked urgent protests in many cities. Although the Black Lives Matter movement was not new, it was newly urgent for many as marchers took to the streets, chanting, "Say their names" and "No justice, no peace." For the first time for many Americans, our eyes were lifted to the role of policing in our communities.

Calls for change in policing include plans to shift financing to other social services and methods of protection. Activists invited us to imagine a 911 call resulting in response by the right person to help with a social service or mental health need. Those who called for changes in policing noted how seldom police are able to interrupt crimes in progress, and how inefficient the bureaucracy of policing has become. They drew a line from modern police forces back to slave times, when police forces were established to control enslaved African Americans.

It can be very hard to imagine a new way of organizing ourselves and our society. Even though modern policing is a relatively new idea, it can seem as if things were "always this way."

When the men who became the disciples were called by Jesus to follow him, they could not imagine any other way of living. Their fathers and grandfathers and all the many generations before had been fishermen. Everyone they knew in their villages were fishermen. Yet, Christ called them to imagine something completely new. And once they did, they initiated a way of life that literally changed the world.

We are a resurrection people. This means that as Christians we understand as the most important tenet of our faith that something old must pass away in order for something new to be born. With the introduction of a movement to change policing, we have a unique opportunity to see our resurrection belief transformed from theological idea to lived reality.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8½" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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