

Source of
STRENGTH

Thank you for worshipping 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 worshipping 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.



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EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Good people of the church,
Lift up your eyes and see.

Have you not seen?

Have you not heard?

Our God greets us here.

Good servants of the Most High,
Open your ears to hear.

Have you not seen?

Have you not heard?

Our God meets us here.

Good children of the light

Open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.

For we have seen, heard and known

From the beginning to the end,

Our God...is.

***Opening Prayer**

Eternal God, Creator of the universe...and then some.

We call on you, you who greet us here.

**We give you thanks for making it possible to gather,
and to ponder your eternal mysteries.**

Make us, creatures of this time and space,

ready collaborators with your endless grace. Amen.

Opening Hymn *Arise, Your Light Is Come

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See insert

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

What do we hold and treasure most?

Is it the promises of God?

What captivates our attention?

Is it the grace of God?

God of mercy and grace:

We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable.

We are broken people

who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness.

Heal us, O God, to make us better healers.

Mend our rifts, that we might be better builders.

Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression.

We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Have you known? Have you heard?

Our God lifts us up on eagle's wings

Strengthening us so that we won't be weary.

**God is great in strength, mighty in power, and
full of endless love for us all.**

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

Isaiah 40:21–31

Mark 1:29-39

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

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

Anthem *You Are My All in All*

- *D. Jernigan, arr. L. Larson*
ERUCC Singers

Service of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer

May God be with you

And also with you.

Lift your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

We freely give God thanks and praise.

It is right and meet, beautiful and holy

that we should, in ceaseless joy

Give our thanks and praise to you,

Holy and merciful God,

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Holy are you, Eternal One.

You sit above, through, within the circle of the earth

Setting light into being

Casting the stars in the sky

Founding the evolving earth

And all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power,

And great is your wisdom.

You look upon the lowly

As your most cherished creatures.

You visit upon the downtrodden

With presence, grace, and the promise of eternal justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus,

Who reached into unexpected places,

Calling women beyond the limits of their times

Equipping men for nurturing love

Welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion,

The light of the world took bread, broke and gave it to the disciples, saying:

“This is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And, in like manner, after supper,

Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks gave it to them saying,

“This is the cup of the new covenant [in my blood]

poured out for you and for all people

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink of it,

for the remembrance of me.”

Life’s greatest feast before us,

We proclaim:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Dear God, you transform.

You transform all that is before you

So that at the touch of your grace

We are never the same.

Dear God, you illumine.

You bring light to all peoples

Light to the nations

Light into our hearts

Light on your Way.

Dear God, we pray for your Spirit.

Transform, illumine, bless.

Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup

Into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

In so doing,

Hold us as your own

Renew us as your people

For the sake of the world you love.

For all honor and glory are yours, O God,

Through Jesus Christ,

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in your glorious creation

Both now and forever.

Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.
We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.
May we bask in this glow
Now and forevermore. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *I Am the Light of the World*

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See insert

*Benediction

***Choral Blessing** *May You Run and Not Be Weary* - P. Murakami

**May you run and not be weary. May your heart be filled with song,
and may the love of God continue to give you hope and keep you strong.
And may you run and not be weary. May your life be filled with joy!
And may the road you travel always lead you home.**

*Postlude



Worship Notes: The Delightful Lightness of Being in Light: Service Prayers with Holy Communion for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany was written by the Rev. Kaji Douša, a United Church of Christ Pastor who serves as a pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City. Copyright 2021 Faith INFO 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. All publishing rights reserved.



Every Sunday at 10:30

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzloh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

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 loving memory of Tyson H. Creamer by his daughter Ann Creamer McGreevy and husband, Mike McGreevy.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in memory of Capt. Jennifer J. Harris, USMC KIA near Bagdad, Iraq on February 7, 2007 by Tom and Evie Frazier.

Worship Next Week: [Ctrl + Click HERE to join worship Sunday 10:30 a.m.](#)

February 14 Transfiguration Sunday

The Season after the Epiphany ends with the story of Jesus' transfiguration in Mark 9: 2-9. This revealing of Jesus' glory is a turning point, marking the end of Jesus' ministry in Galilee and the beginning of the journey towards Jerusalem and the fate that awaits Jesus there. Just before today's reading, Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah. But Peter does not understand Jesus' teaching about the kind of Messiah Jesus has come to be. I John 4: 7-19 reminds us of the gift of love. Norman Ross will be preaching this morning.

Source of Strength

Simon Peter's mother-in-law speaks:

"Peter was like a son to me, even though I did not bear him. So, when he put down his fishing nets and started to follow the Teacher, I paid attention. Some of the other women in the village said they were irresponsible, and if they stopped the work we counted on, we all would starve. "Fishing for people!" they scoffed, "THAT won't put bread on the table." I never said much in those conversations. In truth I never said much at all.

When we heard the Teacher was coming for a meal, I felt this might be my chance to listen, to finally understand his teachings. The other women and I worked all the day before and all through the night to make everything just right. By midday, I felt heavy and moved slower and slower. Finally, the other women saw and urged me to bed, but I was determined to meet the Teacher so without a word I tried to keep to my work. At last I took to bed. I tried to stay awake, but the sickness made me sleep.

When I woke up, the Teacher was there. That strange light that always seemed around him shone in the darkness of the room. His hand on my forehead was cooling and his touch was light, but it filled me with a new strength. All at once, I understood his strange command. To fish for people was to bring them near to God, to one another. I wanted to be one of those fishers, and in that moment, I knew that I would be able to. No longer heavy with fever, I rose.

Serving quietly was the chance to be near the table, and to hear what the Teacher was saying. As fast as I could bring bread and wine to the table, it was gone! First, the neighbors came pouring in, and then people I had never seen before. With that cool touch, he healed them all.

Early the next morning, I was up before the rest and I saw The Teacher slip out the door. I understand what it's like to need a few quiet minutes with the Holy One.

So, when the others asked where he was, I kept silent. But when they started to get ready to go, to look for him, I packed a bag and I followed. And I'm following still. We don't have to be preachers or have our names recorded in books to follow. We just have to be ready, to rise up, to listen and to go when he calls."



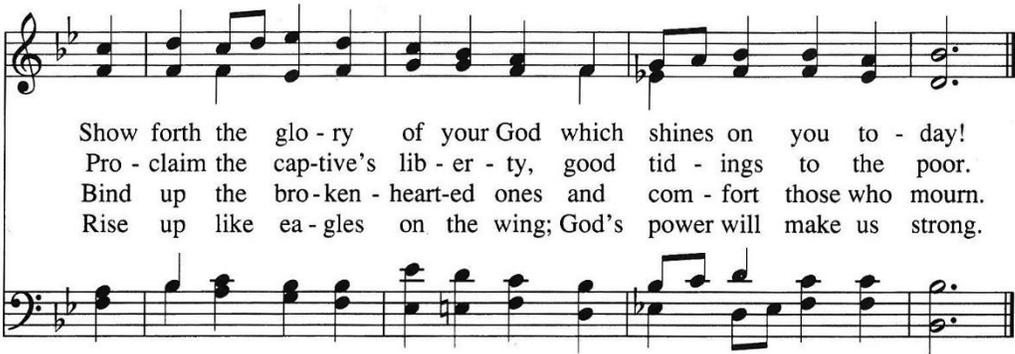
8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21**Ruth Duck, 1973*


1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

F *Unison Introduction*

B \flat **C** **F** **Refrain**

"I am the light of the world!"

B \flat **C** **F** **Gm** **Dm** **C**

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

F **Gm7** **C** **B \flat** **F** **B \flat** **F** *Last time, end*

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F **B \flat /D** **C** **F**

(7)

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 7 To find the lost and lone-ly one, 7 to
 3 7 To free the pris-oner from all chains, 7 to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, 7 to

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr. Jim Strathdee, 1969

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, When the
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
 make mu - sic in an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C Return to

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!