



# Extravagant Sign

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

**F**or Children: We have trained nursery staff (paid nursery attendant as well as adult volunteers) for ages 0-4. The nursery is located on the first floor outside of the Community Room. (Accessible by the stairs from the Church Street Entrance or via the elevator). Children ages 5 and above are invited to stay and worship with their families. Children's programs, books, and crayons are located in the rear of the sanctuary near the welcome table.



**H**ymn selections can be found in the black hymnals in the pew racks or printed in the 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 for offering will be placed at the doors as you exit the sanctuary. Thank you.

**W**e 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.

**T**here is much information about the church in this bulletin and our website: [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org).

Donate online by scanning this code:  
or download the **GivePlus Church** application and  
make your donation via the app. Thank you.



**Ministers - All the People of Evangelical Reformed Church**

Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Senior Pastor ([bkdaniel@erucc.org](mailto:bkdaniel@erucc.org))

Rev. Fred Wenner, Pastor Emeritus

Kim Sexton, Associate for Children's Ministry ([ksexton@erucc.org](mailto:ksexton@erucc.org))

Alison E. Shafer, Music Director • Tricia Coffey, Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director

Sherry Murray, Nursery • Jaci Clayton, Facilities Mgr.

Office Administrator ([erucc@erucc.org](mailto:erucc@erucc.org)) • Jenna Duranko, Social Media Coordinator

*15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-662-2762 • [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)*

**EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**  
- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand

**Chimes Concert** at 10:00 a.m. from Trinity Chapel's steeple

**Greetings and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 36)

No matter how far we wander from you, O God,  
**your steadfast love finds us.**

No matter how unjust the world seems to us, O God,  
**your steadfast righteousness sustains us.**

No matter how vulnerable our lives seem to us, O God,  
**your steadfast presence gives us hope.**

No matter how unloved and uncared for we feel, O God,  
**you hear our cries and answer our prayers. Thanks be to God!**

**\*Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created Heaven and Earth, made us in your image, and kept your promises to us, even in those times when we have failed you. Through the coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord, you have shown us the Holy Way of salvation. Fill us with your Holy Spirit as we join our voices with all your faithful throughout Creation, proclaiming the glory of your name. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

#1

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;  
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;  
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,  
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.  
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.  
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

## \*Call to Confession

As we approach this time of honest reflection, we pause to remember that ours is a God whose desire is for us to continue to grow into the greatness we were created to be. We are not dirty and stained. We are not broken. We are not fallen. We are divine masterworks in progress. And when we turn to our Almighty Creator in search of help in that quest, our God rejoices. Let us join in this shared prayer of confession:

## \*Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, hear our prayers this day. We know we have failed to do the task you have set before us: to love one another as we should. Some have chosen maintaining positions of privilege and comfort over serving you. Some have decided that discrimination based on skin color, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political party,**

even past mistakes, will give them an advantage they refuse to let go of. We have let our fears and doubts rule our days rather than living courageously in faith. Forgive us our failings and lift and restore us to your grace. Put our feet on the pathways of service, justice, and peace. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

### \*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, don't doubt God's power and might! It's God who has created all that is! It's God who has called to your hearts and spirits, and who is with you, pouring his love on you, in you, and through you to others. Believe, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. 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.**

### \*Hymn *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

#480

1 Je - sus, price - less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,  
2 Let your arms en - fold me: those who try to wound me  
3 Ban-ish thoughts of sad - ness, for the source of glad - ness,

friend most sure and true: Long my heart was burn - ing,  
can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,  
Je - sus, en - ters in; Though the clouds may gath - er,

faint - ing much and yearn - ing, thirst-ing af - ter you.  
 ev - ery heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.  
 those who love the Sav - ior still have peace with - in.

Yours I am, O spot - less Lamb, so will I let  
 Fires may flash and thun - der crash; yet, though sin and  
 Though I bear much sor - row here, still in you lies

### The Scripture

Psalm 36: 5-10

OT page 510

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

NT page 174

John 2:1-11

NT page 93

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Are You the One"

The Rev. Michelle Beadle

### Morning Prayers

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

**Offertory** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

-- D. Kidwell  
 ERUCC Singers

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Accept these gifts, we humbly pray O God. Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people. Amen**

- 1** We all are one in mission,  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single, great commission  
compels us from above  
to plan and work together  
that all may know Christ's love.
  
- 2** We all are called for service  
to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different,  
our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others  
with God's surprising grace,  
so ev'ry folk and nation  
may feel God's warm embrace.
  
- 3** Now let us be united  
and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel  
for God's redeeming word.  
We all are one in mission,  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.

**\*Benediction** “Disturbance Prayer (aka a “Reverse St. Francis Prayer”)  
By Rina Wintour & Pat Lavercombe

Jesus, make me a channel of disturbance.  
Where there is apathy, let me provoke.  
Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning.  
Where there is silence, let me be a voice.

Where there is too much comfort and too little action, Grant disruption.  
Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, Grant the willingness to listen.

When laws dictate and pain is overlooked...  
When tradition speaks louder than need...  
When we refuse to take control of our own spiritual growth...  
Our own mission...  
Our own poor,  
Disturb me, O Lord,  
Teach me to be radical.

O Divine Master  
Grant that I may seek rather  
To do justice than talk about it;  
To be with as well as for, the poor;  
To love the hard-to-love as well as the lovely;  
To kiss the children of the poor rather than the feet of the crucifix.

For it is in giving that we receive  
It is in walking-with that we truly understand.  
It is in challenging evil that we achieve justice.  
It is in the struggles of this life that we touch eternity.  
Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

**\*Postlude** *(please be seated)*

**We welcome the Rev. Michelle Beadle as our preacher this morning.**

**The flowers on the altar today** are in memory of the Rev. Henri L.G. Kieffer, Margaret Roulette Kieffer and Dr. Robert H. Pilgrim and Margaret Kieffer Pilgrim by Penny and Bill George and Barbara and Dwight Reynolds.

**The yellow rose bud** is presented by Peter Brehm and Jack Day.

If you are interested in sponsoring the yellow rose, please contact the church office. We have openings in February through the end of the year.

**Attendance Last Sunday:** 7 at 8:30 a.m. 46 at 10:30 a.m. and 152 online.

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You can get to the link on our homepage at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)

**Today: January 16, 2022**

Liturgist: Peg Stahler  
Deacons: Joe Adkins, Matt Davis  
Elder: Gerry Blessing  
Greeters: Rachel and Tom Ford  
Linda Coyle  
Welcome: Holly Davis  
Sound: Rodney Martin,  
Baker Ethan Kline, Jack Day  
Chimers: Saturday: Dick Williams  
Sunday: Triscia Coffey

**January 23, 2022**

Jack Day  
Betsy Selby, Andrew Beadle  
Peter Brehm  
Rob Peters, Felecia Bishop  
Sue Pinner  
Pat Condo  
Tadd Clarkson, Jeff  
Jeff Schaeberle  
Suzanne Morris  
Robin and David Cooney

## Extravagant Sign

Weddings join more than the people being married. They join families, traditions, and stories. Generations come together. Children who were strangers become cousins. Two become one in many ways. In this story told in John's Gospel, there is a wedding with a problem. The wine has run out. Jesus is there, with his mother. In the hands of this gospel author that situation turns into an opportunity to make a point about a moment in the first century when the religious landscape was changing. This is a story about the transformation of traditions.

During the time that John's Gospel came into being, synagogues were being disrupted by Jews who were proclaiming a new religious vision within the context of Judaism. Their voices were raised in worship and community gatherings. What they proclaimed was disruptive to the religious traditions of their day. They were saying that a carpenter's son who was crucified by Roman guards was the Messiah for whom they have been waiting. Talk about conflict! Talk about turmoil! It must have been hard for everyone. John's gospel emerged in the middle of this commotion. That is why this Gospel often takes traditional religious symbols of its day and puts them in the hands of Jesus who transforms them.

The jugs that Jesus fills with wine were used for religious rituals of cleansing. What was sacred and symbolic is, after Jesus gets through with them, now filled with wine...a symbol of celebration and newness. There are many ways we can think about this. One is that by using ritual vessels for wine Jesus joins what we think of as ordinary with our sacred practices.

Many of our churches experiment with new ways of worship and new ways of transforming old traditions. In Cleveland, at our own Amistad Chapel, in the summer of 2018, artists gathered from all over the country. They were visual artists, dancers, scholars of liturgy, writers, and storytellers. They gathered to create and wonder and experiment and discover a new language of our faith – a language for a new century already well underway. They gathered to develop resources for the local church and to support our justice work, and they all came to share how the sacred speaks through our creative selves made in God's image. One of the participants, Rev. Erin Beardemphl said this about art, "If we could, in our churches and in our communities, show people that they really are creative beings, I expect the world would be so much more loving." Like what Jesus did at the wedding, they were filling old vessels with new wine.



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