



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

THE WONDER OF EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024

Ministers / **All of us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Gayle Hassler**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Guest Vocalist / **Kim Long**

Song Leaders / **Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers**

Prelude

"I Will Be Done"

*Opening Hymn

"The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me?)"

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

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** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

***Bold** indicates to speak or sing in unison.*

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
 Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
 Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
 Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
 And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
 Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
 In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
 Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Call to Worship

It is time to focus not on our wants or complaints but on God.
In the silent places of my soul, I turn to God.

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the good news of God,
 saying the time has come, the realm of God is at hand.
**The realm of God is not very far from any one of us,
 for in God we live and move and have our being.**

Jesus said: Change your hearts and lives. The time has come.
In the silent places of my soul, I turn to God.

Greetings and Announcements

Passing the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

Prayer of Confession

Encouraging God,
 forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith.
 Forgive us when we are shackled
 by our narrow understandings of discipleship
 and our clouded sense of purpose.
 Forgive us when we are frightened of the future
 or pull back from the demand of your calling.
 Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past,
 to acknowledge your grace in the present moment,
 and to trust you for our future. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Reading

Mark 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

As Jesus passed alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people."

Right away, they left their nets and followed him. After going a little farther, he saw James and John, Zebedee's sons, in their boat repairing the fishing nets. At that very moment he called them. They followed him, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers.

Special Music

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Gayle Hassler

Message

"Surprise!"

Rev. Gage Church

***Congregational Hymn**

"Here I Am, Lord"

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

Joys and Concerns

We respond with "Lord, hear our prayer."

Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

God is good! **All the time!**
 All the time! **God is good!**
 Let us share the goodness of our God.
We are "centralchurchtopeka" on Venmo.

*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

Good and gracious God,
 you call us to leave behind our preoccupations
 and to follow you into the future.
 Sometimes we find your call challenging.
 May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness
 to follow where you lead. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"Go Make a Difference"

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence. Go make a diff'rence in the world.
 Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence. Go make a diff'rence in the world.

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see
 the love of God in you and me.
 We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.
 Go make a diff'rence in the world.

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**Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence. Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence. Go make a diff'rence in the world.**

**We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.**

**We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.**

**Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence. Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence. Go make a diff'rence in the world.**

**So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.**

**Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence. Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence. Go make a diff'rence in the world.**

***Benediction**

Prelude

"Amen"

Central Congregational Church UCC

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**Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m.
Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.**

Notes: Call to Worship by Bruce Prewer; Confession by Peter Judd.

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