



*Fifth Sunday After Epiphany*  
*Looking for the Light, Listening for the Call*  
February 7, 2021

**Prelude**

*Here I Am to Worship, Martha Main*

**We are Called 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.+

**Gathering Prayer** - Eternal God, Creator of the universe...and then some, we call on you, you who greets us here. We give you thanks for making it possible to gather (even as we gather from a distance) and to ponder your eternal mysteries. Make us, creatures of this time and space, ready collaborators with your endless grace. **Amen.**+

**Song 1**

*On Eagle's Wings, YouTube*

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

**A Time of Prayer:** *You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

**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.

## **We Hear God's Word**

<sup>21</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup> who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Isaiah 40:21-32 (NRSV)

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

‘My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God’?

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' <sup>38</sup>He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

## **Meditation**

*Our Response*

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD WITH OUR GIVING**

**Invitation** – God offers us peace, strength, and love. As a sign of our thanksgiving and praise, let us offer our gifts to God.~

**February Benevolence** – This month our Benevolence Offering will go to support Our Church's Wider Mission, one of the five offerings of the United Church of Christ. There are many ways that this offering goes to support our wider church family, but this month we are highlighting the way it supports our Indiana-Kentucky Conference. Though we, here at Zion, are but one church, we have committed ourselves to being in covenantal relationship with other UCC churches throughout our conference. Our Conference Ministers and other conference staff work hard to keep our churches connected through a variety of conference-wide programming. They offer educational opportunities, service opportunities, and opportunities to grow in faith through worship and spiritual practice. They offer to support to clergy, like our own Pastor Sarah, so that our pastors can carry on with their work, serving our local congregations in healthy and vital ways. Our offerings ensure that our conference staff can continue to do this important ministry, so that together, with their support, we can make an even greater impact on the world. Please,

consider donating toward this month's Benevolence Offering. By doing so, you will help our wider church family grow stronger as we do Christ's work together. Please, clearly indicate on your check, offering envelope, or PayPal note, what portion of your offering you'd like to go to support OCWM.

You can mail your offerings to our office. We check the mail regularly.  
Zion United Church of Christ  
8916 E. Troy Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46239

Or, you can donate through our website through our secure PayPal button at [www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate). Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments.

**We Give Thanks** – God of all, as Jesus spent time with you in prayer, we come to you in prayer, asking you to bless these gifts, that they might proclaim your message of love, grace, and peace. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.~

## WE GATHER AT THE TABLE

### Song 2

*As We Gather At Your Table, YouTube*



**Set Your Place at the Table**—Communion was first celebrated in the homes of those in the early church. Friends and family would gather together to pray, singing songs, and break bread. We carry on that tradition today. Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it.

Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

**Our Invitation**—This Epiphany season, we have seen the many ways that God's love has been revealed through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. As Christ's disciples we have been called to dedicate our lives to serving one another and our neighbors as we do the important work of building God's kingdom here on earth. Christ knew how important it was to find rest, renewal, and nourishment, and so today we gather around Christ's table to receive God's blessing, to have our cups filled, and our spirits recharged.

**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 bread, and after giving thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying: ‘This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, Jesus also took 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.’ By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death and celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and await Christ’s coming again.+

**Our Confession** —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. (*Time for silent confession*).+

**Assurance of Grace**— Have you known? Have you heard? Our God lifts us up on eagle’s wings strengthening us so that we won’t be weary. The burden of sin is but a far and distant memory for, through Christ, our sins – all of them – are forgiven. God is great in strength, mighty in power, and full of endless love for us all. Thanks be to God. Amen.+

**Blessing Our Meal**—Holy Spirit, pour out your presence into this bread and into this cup that they might be a visible sign of your invisible grace. Through these elements, whatever they might be, may your love be more fully revealed. Bless this meal and all who partake. Amen.

**We Share the Bread and the Cup** – (*Taking the bread*) Take and eat, this is Christ’s body broken for you. (*Taking the cup*) Take and drink, this is Christ’s blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.

**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.’

### **Song 3**

*Christ, You Call Us All to Service, YouTube*

**We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing** – May God bless and keep you, may God’s face shine through yours. And may the glorious, Triune God protect and keep you all the days long. Amen.+

### **Postlude**

*Revive Us Again, Martha Main*

Worship Notes: +UCC Worship Ways. =Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost (pp. 40-41). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition. ~ Beu, B. J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2018: Worship Planning Resources for Every Sunday of the Year. Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.. ‘UCC Book of Worship.