



5th Sunday After Epiphany
February 6, 2022

Prelude

Melodia Sacra

We are Called to Worship – One day, as the crowds pressed in, Jesus went out on a boat to teach. When the crowds ached for the Word of God, Jesus cried out with Good News. When the fishermen were discouraged after a long night of fruitless work, Jesus invited them to hope. When the nets were empty, Jesus said, “Release them into the deep,” and they were filled with bounty. This is the amazing Savior we have come to follow, so whatever life holds, do not be afraid, for Christ is with us, indeed.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.

A Time of Prayer—Holy One, you are ready to meet us wherever we are in our lives, offering vision, interruption, hope where we may least expect it. Surprise us here at worship today with some grace unexpected that will change something in us—large or small—and send us into the world inspired and impassioned to do your work...+

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*Luke 5:1-11 (NRSV)*

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ ⁵Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Meditation*Casting the Net***We Gather at the Table**

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—Like Simon Peter, there are those moments when we are struck down by our shorting comings and the ways we have strayed from God’s path. We are bound by doubt that leaves us stagnate, unable to act. Yet

in Christ, we find words of grace and mercy that heal our souls, that empower and embolden us once again to live faithfully. Here are Christ's table, the bounty overflows and there is always enough to go around.

The Words of Institution—On the night when Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered with his friends in that upper room to celebrate the Passover meal, a meal of remembrance of the liberation of God's people from slavery in Egypt, a journey that would lead them deep into the wilderness. After the meal was over, Jesus took the bread that was left, broke it, blessed it, and said, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you." In the same way, he took the cup, the fruit of the vine, and pouring it out he said, "This is the cup of the new covenant, my blood shed for you and the forgiveness of sins. As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, remember me." Today, we remember Christ's body broken for us and blood shed for us as bread is transformed into mercy and wine into compassion. As we prepare to receive this holy meal, let us ready our hearts by confessing our sins to God. Let us pray.

Our Confession— You call to us through the voices of the poor and the powerless, but we close ourselves off from their need: Lord have mercy.

You call to us through the cries of those who struggle to change structures of oppression, but we turn away from their challenge: Christ have mercy.

You hint, you invite, you surround us with calls to love you more fully, and follow you more faithfully, but we cling to comfort and safety: Lord have mercy.+

Assurance of Grace—Friends, the call of God, like God's own grace, is new every day. Let us go forward with eyes and ears and hearts open to the work of God in our world, and draw on the courage to create with God a Just World for All.+

Blessing Our Meal—Come, Holy Spirit, come and pour out your blessings upon this bread and this cup. Grant that this time around Christ's table my nourish our spirits and energize us to take action in our lives to share your love. Help us to feel the presence of one another and our siblings around the world who gather for this feast that we might always know that we have companions for the journey ahead. Open our very being to receive your grace and your mercy as we partake of this feast. Amen.

We Share the Bread and the Cup – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

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.=

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation— God, you call us to give as we have received. You call us to respond to your grace. Let our generosity express our gratitude for your goodness in our lives.+

February Benevolence— Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is the main offering we collect to support the work of our wider church family in the United Church of Christ. A portion of our offering goes directly to support the work of our denomination. One aspect of our denomination that this offering enhances is the work of Local Church Ministries, which helps to support those who have said “yes” to Christ’s call to serve in ministry. Your participation in this offering will help nurture the future of the church and its ministers.

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at www.zionuccindy.net/donate

Doxology (Please sing the version that is most meaningful to you)

Traditional

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Inclusive

*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.*

We Give Thanks—God, may the gifts brought this day be signs of our commitment to you to take action in sharing your love. May you work through them, multiple them, enliven them that they may be used for your glory. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Hymn

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, #344

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing— Here we are, O Holy One! Send us into your world to do your justice, witness to your vision of grace, and follow you with courage into your transforming reign. Amen.+

Postlude

Minuet