



# CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

**Fifth Sunday After Epiphany**

**February 5, 2023**

## **WELCOME & INSTRUCTION**

*Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.*

In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **ORDER OF CONFESSION**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,  
you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.  
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.  
We nurture conflict and build barriers.  
We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.  
Have mercy on us.  
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.  
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.  
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.  
Renew us with your grace  
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.  
**Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass  
and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** | Gather Us In

No. 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING | 1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup>“For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM | 112:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and have great delight in <sup>1</sup> God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty <sup>1</sup> in the land;  
the generation of the upright <sup>1</sup> will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be <sup>1</sup> in their house,  
and their righteousness will <sup>1</sup> last forever.

<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness <sup>1</sup> for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion. R**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be gener- <sup>1</sup> ous in lending  
and to manage their af- <sup>1</sup> fairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup>**For they will nev- <sup>1</sup> er be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlast- <sup>1</sup> ing remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any <sup>1</sup> evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established and <sup>1</sup> will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- <sup>1</sup> on their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands <sup>1</sup> fast forever;  
they will hold up their <sup>1</sup> head with honor.

<sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and <sup>1</sup> pine away;  
the desires of the wick- <sup>1</sup> ed will perish. R**

## **GOSPEL READING | Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

God is with you. And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Csrist.**

**MESSAGE |**

*Rev. Jim Muratore*

## BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

- How are you compelled to enrich the lives of others?
- What does the light and saltiness in you look like? Don't be shy, or modest.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced the injustices of systemic racism and transform our capacity and desire for equality and inclusion. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters and human destruction. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Bring a diplomatic end to the war in Ukraine and prevent further escalation and bloodshed. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way We pray for Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Luke and Melissa, Mary, Allison, Nathan, Shay, and Zoe, Buddy, Katie, Scott, Roman, Terrance, Angel, Noah, Pam, Jim, Quinn, Charles, Joe, Htet (Tet) and all whom we name now.... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness, especially Leanne Elliot and Matthew Herzberg. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at [www.churchontheavenuehampden.org](http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org). You can also sign up for automated giving.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

**Amen.**

## COMMUNION

*The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.*

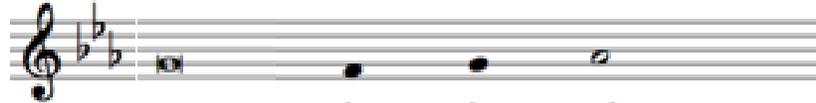
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



[P] The Lord is here



[A] God's Spir - it is with us



[P] Let us lift up our hearts



[A] We lift them to our God



[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God



[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

For on the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is  
yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a- gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
 and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF ASHES | February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30pm**

We will mark the beginning of Lent with an especially sensory contemplative liturgy incorporating incense and sound healing, along with the imposition of ashes.

### **LENTEN EVENING PRAYER | Thursdays, 7:30pm**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 6<sup>th</sup>

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am

Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm

Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm

Easter Vigil, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm

Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10am

**NEW HYMNAL PUBLISHED |** THE ELCA has recently published All Creation Sings, a supplement to the Evangelical Lutheran Worship which was published in 2006. The new hymnal includes 200 new songs to the church's repertoire, many having been written in the last 15 years, and 2 new settings for worship. The books cost \$15 each. We plan to purchase a total of 50. Special gifts can be made through the giving portal to help cover the cost.

### **THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | Saturdays 11am-4pm**

Contact Cheryl Conrad if you would be interested in helping run the thrift shop!

## **LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS SUPPORT FUND**

As we all know, the cost of groceries has been steadily increasing. While they have been able to take advantage of the produce giveaways here at the church, it has still been difficult to stay in budget. You can give to this fund separately from your regular offering through our online giving portal at [churchontheavenuehampden.org](http://churchontheavenuehampden.org) and by clicking on LVC SUPPORT FUND.

**THANK YOU** for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry together. You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>.

## **BENEDICTION**

God is with you! **And also with you!**

God bless you and keep you,  
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** | This Little Light of Mine

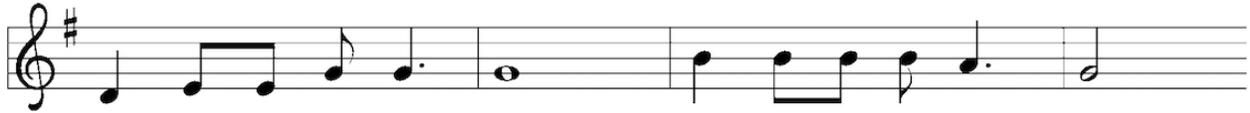
No. 677



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
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ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**