

January 2023

SERMON SERIES: “God of the Dark and the Light”

Let us make our pledge to follow Jesus’ star. Let us be about the one who guides us, who finds us even when we are lost and gives us direction and hope. Let our worship be full of songs of praise of the name of Jesus, and let our prayers be prayers of commitment to follow.

SUNDAY 1st “God of the Dark and the Light” – COMMUNION

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and “Live Streamed” Worship Service

Focus Scripture: Matthew 2. 1 - 12

Epiphany is the name of a Christian festival celebrated on January 6th commemorating the manifestation of the Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the magi, or an appearance, especially of a deity. But, there’s more. Something that implies a stumbling upon, a glimpse, an intuitive perception into the essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some commonplace experience. Not knowing, as much as grasping. Receiving enough to get us through. To keep our feet moving. To make our commitments. Maybe it is enough to give our lives away to this child, to this story, to this gospel and this truth. Maybe.

Opening:	UMH # 251	“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (1, 2, 3)
Prayer:	TFWS # 2036	“Give Thanks”
Doxology:	UMH # 94	Praise God, ... All Blessings Flow - Alleluia
Benediction:		“On This Day of Celebration” – see below

On This Day of Celebration *by Carolyn Gillette*
HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D (“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”)

1. On this day of celebration, at this time when hopes are new,
God, we gather as your people, called to put our trust in you.
You have made the world we live in; you have worked through history.
In your plan we find our purpose, in your love, our unity.
2. Long ago, you sent our Savior to this world in deep despair.
In your Word made flesh you came, our life to know, our sins to bear.
Christ has died and Christ is risen! At this new year we proclaim:
Yesterday, today, forever — Jesus Christ is still the same!
3. Through two thousand years of changes, through these passing centuries,
You have called your church to witness to Christ's love that claims and frees.
Each new generation hears you, each must find a fresh new way
To make known the life you offer, to the people in their day.

4. On this day, we pause and wonder what the future years will bring,
 Yet we know you clothe each flower and you make each sparrow sing.
 How much more will you protect us with your guiding, caring hand!
 By your Spirit, lead us boldly in the future you have planned.

SERMON SERIES: “Glimpses of the Kin-dom”

We are now the epiphany, the light shining forth for the world to see. And of course, we will fail from time to time. But how we deal with failure is also a sign of that presence and glimpse of the kin-dom. So, this ordinary time is extra-ordinary in the living of it. Let us embrace the call with grace and with joy.

SUNDAY 8th “Glimpses of the Kin-dom”

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and “Live Streamed” Worship Service

Focus Scripture: Matthew 3. 13 - 17

We don’t know what happened to cause John to say what he said. Or caused Matthew to record what he said. But something did. Some sense of what was right and what was wrong. And John’s sense of what was right was that Jesus should be the one blessing, should be the one baptizing.

Yet, Jesus says, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness” (3:15). Let it be so for now? What does that mean? Let’s go through the motions? Let’s pretend for now? And what is this righteousness that Jesus is trying to fulfill?

Opening:	UMH # 2117	“Spirit of God” (vs.1, 3)
Prayer:	UMH # 347	“Spirit Song”
Doxology:	UMH # 94	Praise God, ... All Blessings Flow - Alleluia
Benediction:	UMH # 534	“Be Still, My Soul” (vs.1, 2)

SUNDAY 15th Guest Preacher: Rev. Pamela Abbey

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and “Live Streamed” Worship Service

SUNDAY 22nd Guest Preacher: Rev. Thomas Kimball

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and “Live Streamed” Worship Service

Opening:	UMH # 512	“Stand By Me” (vs. 1, 3, 5)
Prayer:	UMH # 526	“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (vs. 1, 2)
Doxology:	UMH # 94	Praise God, ... All Blessings Flow - Alleluia
Benediction:	UMH # 533	“We Shall Overcome” (vs. 1, 2, 3)

SUNDAY 29th

"Glimpses of the Kin-dom"

Contemplative Worship w/ Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading)

10:00 AM	Indoor/In Person Worship Service No Live Streaming Today
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Focus Scripture: Matthew 5. 1 - 12

Today, the sound of our gathering is the music; the people who seek God are gathered by the love of God, called to live into God's dream for the world. Here we are, and God is with us.

Opening:		"The Lord is My Song"
Prayer:	TFWS # 2193	"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"
Doxology:	UMH # 95	Praise God, ... All Blessings Flow

February 2023

SUNDAY 5th

"Glimpses of the Kin-dom" – with Communion

10:00 AM	Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service
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Scripture Reading: Psalm 112. 1 - 10

Focus Scripture: Matthew 5. 13 - 20

We are the representatives of the faith whether we want to be or not. So, we might as well be good ones. We are the manifestation of Christ in the world today, whether we claim it or not. So, why not claim it? Why not live as though Christ were alive in us?

That is what he is saying here, "You are the salt of the earth, why not help things grow? You are the light of the world, why not help folks find their way? Why not mentor, why not lead, why not be what you are, a sign of Christ's presence in the world today?"

"Get out there," Jesus says, out there in the world, the noisy, wonderful, scary, glorious world and let your light shine. Don't worry about being trampled underfoot; that only happens when you stop being who you are called and created to be. You are light. Let it shine.

Opening:	TFWS # 2236	"Gather Us In"
Prayer:	TFWS # 2165	"Cry of My Heart"
Doxology:	UMH # 94	Praise God, ... All Blessings Flow - Alleluia
Benediction:	UMH # 572	"Pass It On"

SUNDAY 12th

"Glimpses of the Kin-dom"

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 3. 1 - 9

Focus Scripture: Matthew 5. 21 - 37

It seems to me that all these rules, all these higher ways of living are about community. They are about relationships. And Jesus is saying that we ought not take anyone for granted. We ought not run the risk of hurting anyone. We ought not treat anyone as less than a child of God. These aren't rules so much as a way of creating a community that resembles the kin-dom of God.

Opening:	UMH # 560	"Help Us Accept Each Other"
Prayer:	FWS # 2176	"Make Me a Servant"
Doxology:	UMH # 94	Praise God, ... All Blessings Flow - Alleluia
Benediction:	UMH # 643	"When Love is Found" (vs. 3, 4)

SUNDAY 19th

"Glimpses of the Kin-dom"

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

Scripture Reading: Exodus 24. 12 - 18

Focus Scripture: Matthew 17. 1 - 9

Our worship should do more than just give us a warm feeling in our hearts. Our family, our neighbors, our coworkers should know that we have been to worship. Because they see in us the desire to listen to Jesus. Worship is our moment to hear again the call to serve, the call to love, the call to give ourselves away. Worship is all about Jesus, but it is at the same time all about us. About him as the beloved Son and us as the ones drawn together in community and privileged to be able to listen to him.

Opening:	UMH # 127	"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"
Prayer:	UMH # 77	"How Great Thou Art"
Doxology:	UMH # 94	Praise God, ... All Blessings Flow - Alleluia
Benediction:	TFWS # 2234	"Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"