

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EAST GOSHEN

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Hospitality, Grace, and Hope are Offered to All!

February 23, 2025 – 10 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



Rev. Homer Royer, Bridge Pastor

Lindsay Woessner, Music Director

Carolyn Scherer, Office Administrator

Church House, 1066 South New Street, West Chester, PA 19382

Office: 610-692-2951

office@ucceastgoshen.org

www.ucceastgoshen.org

THANK YOU to ALL helping with Worship Today:

Bonnie & Steve Yost: Greeters/Offering Collection

Susan Ward: Tech Support

_____ : Lay Reader

Spiritual Life Committee : Fellowship Hour

Bonnie Yost and Andy Grim: Counters

Worship volunteers for next Sunday, 3/2/25

: Greeters/Offering Collection

Bart Yost: Tech Support

: Lay Reader

: Fellowship Hour

Lucy Barber and Carol Swingle: Counters

Living In God's Love Together, We Gather

**Please stand as you are able.*

Bold type = Congregation P = Pastor

PRELUDE

A Sky Full of Stars

Guy Berryman, Jon Buckland, Will Champion,
Chris Martin and Tim Bergling

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE SINGING BOWL

WE CENTER OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

(All Sing Verse 1)

EPIPHANY

164

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

Words Copyright © 1992 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 37)

Come, beloved, in praise, and without fear.

We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.

Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.

May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.

May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

*HYMN

Take My Life (From the Evangelical and Reformed Hymnal)

The Christian Life

253

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL, 1874

7-7-7-7-

ST. BEES
JOHN B. DYKES, 1862

In moderate time; solemnly

1. Take my life, and let it be Con - se - cra - ted, Lord, to Thee.
2. Take my hands, and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love.
3. Take my voice, and let me sing, Al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; Not a mite would I with - hold.
5. Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no lon - ger mine.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treas - ure - store.

Take my mo - ments and my days; Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips, and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect, and use Ev - ery power as Thou shalt choose.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee. A-MEN.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

(Unison)

God of the grand reversal,

we confess our easy attachment to revenge in its many forms. Instead of interrupting violence, it has been easy to practice it in word and deed. It has been easy to worship the lie of scarcity instead of trusting your promise of abundance. By this, the way of the world has worked into our hearts and minds. Forgive us and free us from ourselves. Equip us anew with an outpouring of Your love. By this of You, form us into channels of grace. Deepen our love, expand our generosity, and mold us and the world with Your abundant mercy. Let the heart and mind of Christ take up residence in us anew. Amen.

Words of Grace

I have good news! The Holy One, Love Almighty, interrupts our missteps and misdeeds, our distractions and our detours. In Christ Jesus, God has shown us what forgiving love has already done and continues to do. It heals, it mends, and makes a new chapter possible. This is the forgiving power of God that embraces you and me, here and now. It is the good news! You can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!

***PASSING THE PEACE** *(in a safe manner)*

*WE REGATHER IN SONG

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

NCH 172 (verse 5):

Verse 5:

*Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.*

CONVERSATION FOR ALL AGES

PASTORAL PRAYER

Silent Prayers

P: Next, we share out loud our prayers of concern for family, friends, and our community, for wounded places and people burdened with care.

[You are invited to offer your prayers of concern.]

P: Lord, in Your Mercy
Hear our prayers.

P: Now we share our joys and gratitudes, the ways in which God has blessed us this week, and the moments we felt God's presence.

[You are invited to offer your prayers of thanksgiving, celebration, blessings, and gratitude.]

P: Lord, in Your Mercy
Hear our prayers.

P: Having shared our prayers of concern and our prayers of gratitude, we now recommit ourselves to following the Way of Jesus who taught us to pray saying...

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your
name, your kingdom
come, your will be
done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today
our daily bread. For-
give us our sins as we
forgive those who sin
against us. Save us
from the time of trial
and deliver us from
evil. For the kingdom,
the power, and the
glory are yours now
and for ever. Amen.**

~ Healing: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Roberto Ochoa, the Minister for Ethnic Inclusion, & Congregational Support for Rural and Small Churches for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. He is a member of Mt. Zion Congregational UCC in Cleveland, OH.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

ALLELUIA

765

Text and music: Jerry Sinclair, 1972; alt.

1 Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia,

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note 'A', then a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 'i', and a quarter note 'a'. This sequence is repeated four times, with the lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia' written below each group of notes. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

ALLELUIA

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It features the same vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!' are written below the vocal line. The system concludes with a double bar line.

WE LISTEN TO OUR SACRED TEXT

Isaiah 6: 1-8

A Vision of God in the Temple

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six

wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The pivots^[a] on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph^[b] touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Luke 5: 1-11

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

5 Once while Jesus^[a] was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He 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. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to

sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and 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." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

MEDITATION/SERMON

Rev. Homer Royer

[In the silence after the sermon, we allow the sacred text and dialogue of the sermon to settle in our hearts, bones and bodies, and soul. We do this by opening our hearts and inviting God to settle the message we each needed to receive.]

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed, an alternate version

NCH 882

WE ARE INVITED TO GIVE

WE GIVE GENEROUSLY

O Lamb of God Most Holy (piano solo)

Nikolaus Decius

EASY OFFERING OPTION

If you prefer to give electronically, please use your cell phone camera to scan this QR code.



*DOXOLOGY *(sung)*

**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 DEDICATE OUR OFFERINGS

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (Unison)

Generous God, thank you for pressing Your holy love into the lap of our lives. Bless these gifts we bring that they may be multiplied into a good larger than we can imagine. Also, bless us, that we might live our lives in gratitude, sharing freely

without expectation of return. Through this way of Jesus, stretch our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of Your Holy grace. Amen.

*HYMN

You Have Come down to the Lakeshore (Tú has venido a la orilla) NCH 173

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BENEDICTION

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult NCH 172 (verse 5):

Verse 5:

*Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.*

POSTLUDE

Crown Him With Many Crowns (jazz piano arr.) George Job Elvey

Our worship has ended, and our service has just begun...

Please join us for fellowship in the Parlor.

UCCEG Worship & Events	Community Meetings
<p>February 23 – Worship Committee (following service)</p> <p>February 26 – 2:30pm UCC Discussion Group (Parlor)</p> <p>March 2 – 10am Worship</p> <p><i>Choir Rehearsals:</i></p> <p>Feb 28: 2pm-3pm Mar 2: 9am-9:40am</p>	<p>No community meetings this week.</p>

Church Office Hours This Week

	<u>Pastor Homer</u>	<u>Office</u>
<i>Monday</i>	---	---
<i>Tuesday</i>	---	<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	2PM – 4PM	<i>Work from home</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	1:30PM – 3:30PM	11AM-12PM
<i>Friday</i>	---	---
<i>Saturday</i>	---	---

Prayer Requests*

Please fill out a prayer request form (on the table in the Foyer) or email office@ucceastgoshen.org for any updates or additions to our prayer list.

We pray for the following members and friends of UCCEG:



Roy Garlisch, Cliff Keljikian, George Litzke,
Susan Morey, Susan Ward, Carol Swingle.

*The prayer list is being updated. Please fill out a Prayer Request (in the Narthex) and place it in the offering plate, or contact the office or Carol Swingle if you would like to add someone.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

The Environmental Justice Team of the PSEC is offering a free 5-week book study on the important book by Jim Antal, Climate Church, Climate World, on Zoom. These will occur every Monday in March from 12:30-1:30 PM. The author, Rev. Antal, is the Special Advisor on Climate Justice for the UCC. He has preached on climate issues since 1988. The newly revised 2nd Edition will be used. Carol Swingle will be leading one of the weeks, the others by different clergy members of the EJ Team. This will be the main offering of the Spiritual Life Committee for the Lenten season. Books cost \$30 (plus tax and shipping) and can be ordered through the Hearts and Minds Bookstore in Lancaster, PA (www.heartsandmindsbooks.com). Carol Swingle and Rev. Royer will each have a copy and there will be one available to borrow. Please ask Carol if you would like to borrow a copy.

Please note: There's a link to sign up in the UCCEG weekly email blast.

Hope and Help for Altadena

In the Eaton wildfire, Altadena Community Church, UCC, lost their place of worship and many members lost their homes. This congregation, renowned for its unwavering dedication to peace, justice, and radical acceptance, has been a beacon of hope and love in Altadena community for over 80 years.

We can help them by offering our prayers and monetary donations. During the month of February UCCEG will be collecting donations specifically for them. If you wish to donate by check, please make check payable to UCCEG and write Altadena Church Fire on the memo. This will differentiate the donation from general California fire relief. Put either check or cash in church envelope, label it Altadena Church Fire, and place in the offering plate.

We hold this congregation in our hearts and send our continued prayers that in time they will regroup and continue their ministry of love, justice and service.

February Outreach for Safe Harbor

Due to the extremely cold winter months and the extra indoor programs that Safe Harbor (SH) is providing for the residents, they are using more coffee than usual.

As part of UCCEG's February outreach we would like to help fill this need. The donation can be container/s of instant or ground coffee. (Folger's was suggested but any brand is fine.) Or place a monetary donation labeled "coffee for SH" in the collection plate and we will purchase coffee for you. Your donation will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Spiritual Life

Sara Beam has joined the Spiritual Life Committee. Please contact her or Carol Swingle if you have any suggestions for activities you would like to see at UCCEG. Current ideas include periodic walks in the Labyrinth on the Church of the Loving Shepherd (CLS) property, a prayer group that could include experiencing other types of prayers such as "mindful doodling," vision boards for peace, and a Pot Luck lunch with CLS members and friends.

Reminder from our Treasurer:

Please note: If you use a bill paying system for donations to UCCEG, please notify your banks of the church's new address. It may take a few weeks for it to go through the bank's system. If you have not already notified your bill payers, now's the time! Thank you for your generosity! UCCEG's new address:

**United Church of Christ East Goshen, Church House,
1066 S. New Street, West Chester, PA 19382**