



Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Elk River, Minnesota 763-441-1203
[www.elkriverucc.org /](http://www.elkriverucc.org/)
churchoffice@elkriverucc.org

Welcome!

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomes everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.



We offer worship in-person or via Facebook Live every Sunday at 10am. The recorded broadcast is also available for viewing on our website, following the livestream. You can contact the church at any time. See office hours below.

Please SILENCE cell phones during the service.

The wi-fi password is: stillspeaking1203



VISION

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

(Micah 6:8, (NIV))

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Mission Statement



God calls us to minister to each other. This ministry goes beyond our congregation into the community, wider world, and to the earth itself. We seek to reach those in the margins of society, to empower the powerless, and to leave this earth a better place than when we each arrived

For kids: The **PRAYGROUND** is located in the Vestry (the room off of the sanctuary). Also, in the back of the sanctuary, is a table with items and bags for activities appropriate for the kids to work on and play with during the service. Children are welcome to sit at the table or bring the bag back to sit with parents.

Worship January 15, 2023

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING PRAYER ~John Philp Newell, "Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter"

One: You are above us, O God, you are within.

You are in all things yet contained by no thing.

Teach us to seek you in all that has life that we may see you as the Light of life.

Teach us to search for you in our own depths that we may find you in every living soul.

* Please stand as your body and soul are able.

* **Hymn of Adoration #85** | Woke Up This Morning | New Century Hymnal

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Iona Prayer Book by Peter Millar (adapt.)

One: God of every wayfarer's heart, you walk beside us and before us on the way,

All: Surprising us through your Spirit at every turning on the path.

One: Yet, like your disciples on the Emmaus road, we often fail to recognize our companion.

All: In this morning hour, and in whatever the day may hold, open our eyes to see your presence, that we may celebrate with you the gift of morning.

***Hymn #2** Morningstar | Sing! Prayer and Praise Songbook

* Passing the Peace

One: Peace unto you and to all mankind. Peace to all creatures as kin in our creation. May the peace within me greet the peace within you.

All: And may the peace within me greet the peace within you.

* Hymn #83 I Sing as I Arise Today | New Century Hymnal

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (let us pray together)

All: Be our guiding light, O God, as we learn to fuel the flame of hope, peace, joy, and love within our heart, mind, and soul.

Words of Grace

One: With Love and Faith as guiding words, God speaks to us, ignites us, and walks with us on our individual and collective journeys. God is with us always. Amen.

Special Music

Carson Schneider

Scripture Reading Matthew 4:1-17

Nancy & Ava Slupe

Common English Bible

Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. The tempter came to him and said, "Since you are God's Son, command these stones to become bread."

Jesus replied, "It's written, People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God."

After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone."

Jesus replied, "Again it's written, Don't test the Lord your God."

Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said, "I'll give you all these if you bow down and worship me."

Jesus responded, "Go away, Satan, because it's written, You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him." The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light, and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.

From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!"

CHILDREN'S TIME

REFLECTION

Rev. Sheri Nelson

Hymn #211 Lord, Jesus, Who through Forty Days | New Century Hymnal

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Notes:

The Prayer of Jesus ~ John Philip Newell

"Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter"

*All: Ground of all being, Mother of life,
Father on the universe.*

*May we know your presence here,
seeking your will upon earth.*

*Grant all your creatures food for today
and strength for our families.*

*Pardon our falseness as we forgive
those who are untrue to us.*

*Do not forsake us in our need
but lead us to new birth.*

*For the glory of life and the light of life,
are yours forever. Amen.*

Invitation to Generosity

One: With joy, let us present offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's Church. Let us give, as each is able, according to the blessings God has given each of us.

* DOXOLOGY #782 | New Century Hymnal

All: To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise. AMEN.

*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (let us pray together)

One: Through these gifts, O God,

All: may all heed the voice of justice, hear the call to compassion, embrace the way of sharing, and know solidarity with the loving Christ. Amen.

* Hymn #192 Carry the Light | Sing! Prayer and Praise

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Elk River Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Sheri Nelson

Office Administrator & Virtual Production: Giuliana Beckwith

Piano & Senior Choir/Handbell Director: Carson Schneider

Deacon: Marce Ediger

Liturgists: Nancy & Ava Slupe

Greeter/Usher: Beckwith Family

Sound: Marce Ediger

Sunday School: Amanda Hooper

Hospitality: Outreach & Justice/At Large Members

Acknowledgements

All re-printed music is licensed under CCLI 11010370

Other sources for this bulletin come from the UCCanada's "Celebrate God's Presence: Book of Services."

Church Materials

Copies of the Sunday sermon and bulletin are available in person or via Facebook, our website, and the UCC Squared Newsletter (email).

Office Hours

Office hours for the church are Sunday 9:00am to 1:00pm before and after worship, Monday/Wednesday 8:00am-2:00pm, and Thurs. 8:00am-3:00pm. Call the church at (763) 441-1203 if you have general questions. If you need immediate assistance outside of office hours, please email - churchoffice@elkriverucc.org.

Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, an accident, or a death, please contact Rev. Sheri Nelson via text or call at 218-640-3722. You may also contact the church office though the response may take longer.

HOLDING IN PRAYER

(Cards and calls are appreciated)

Please keep in your prayers our congregation members: Nancy Hassett, Musz Bailey, Jim Babcock, Bobbie Berg, Susan Olsen, Joanne Burdick, Ruby Cawthra, Jane Houlton, Marion Marcott, Judy Halgren, Bailey Rosdahl, Jimmy Stevens, Dee & Jim Stevens (Jimmy's parents), Linda Fenton, Dave Halgren, Joan Axen, Marv and Nancy Andersen, Jim Kopperud, Tony Rohs.

Reminder: Cards are available in the church office.

Member Directory:

The current online member directory is available on our website at <https://servantkeeper.com/directory/elkriverucc/login>.

The password is case sensitive: BeTheChurch

SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEKS

Sunday, January 15, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service In-person
and live via Facebook

Hospitality by Outreach & Justice/
At Large Members

2:00 p.m. "Winterreise" Concert

Tuesday, January 17, 2022

3:00 p.m. In-person Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, January 18, 2022

3:30 p.m. SARI Vigil Sherburne
County Gov't center
5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, January 19, 2022

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Encore Ensembles
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. Diaconate

Sunday, January 22, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service In-person
and live via Facebook

Hospitality by Liturgical Arts/
Denominational Delegates

Tuesday, January 24, 2022

3:00 p.m. In-person Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Congregational Life
7:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday, January 25, 2022

3:30 p.m. SARI Vigil Sherburne
County Gov't center
5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:15 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, January 26, 2022

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Encore Ensembles
6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

Friday, January 27, 2022

6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts



UNITED
CHURCH OF
CHRIST