



**2nd Sunday after Epiphany**  
**First United Church of Christ**  
**An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,**  
**Immigrant Welcoming Congregation**  
**January 8, 2023**  
**10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [virtual visitor card](#).

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### Gathering Music

*Where Two or Three Are Gathered*

Bruce Harding (2002)

**Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.**

### Call to Worship

Adapted from poetry by Lori Hetteen

One: God's love goes where it's needed.

**All: It doesn't hesitate to bend low, to put skin in the game,**

One: to lead a whole rowdy and beautiful crowd to exactly the place they belong.

**All: We soak up goodness for this reason.**

One: We choose to feel deeply for this reason.

**All: We learn to be helpers and prayers for this reason.**

One: We practice kindness for this reason.

**All: We recall the light for this reason. Amen.**

### Opening Hymn

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

#154 (African American spiritual)

*Chorus:* Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. *Chorus*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! Above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Chorus*

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. *Chorus*

### Time with Children

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.**

**All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

### Statement of Commitment: Racial Justice

**As members of the First United Church of Christ of Northfield, we covenant with God and each other to engage in the work of racial justice to unmask, dismantle and eradicate racism from our society. We make this commitment knowing we are fallible people in a fractured world. Our actions will include building an anti-racist community through confronting our own racism, owning**

**our racist history, and repenting of our role in systemic racism; fostering existing and new relationships to work toward racial equity; committing resources to racial justice; and listening to, trusting, and valuing the experiences of the people most impacted by racism. Our commitment to this covenant rests on our belief that God envisions a world in which people are treated with equality and dignity.**

**Anthem**

*Keep Hope Alive*

Donald Vails

Keep hope alive. Don't let the dream die. Got to keep hope alive.  
(Congregation joins the second time)

**Scripture**

John 1:35-42

Beth Kallestad

**Sermon**

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**Prayer Hymn**

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

#505 (Sweet Hour)

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,  
and bids me at my Maker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.  
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! The joys I feel, the bliss I share  
Of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for your return!  
With them I hasten to the place where I would know my Savior's face,  
And gladly take my station there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Whose wings shall my petition bear  
To One whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since I'm bid to seek God's face, and trust God's grace,  
I'll cast away my every care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

**The Prayers**

*We will join in prayer aloud and in silence. All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.*

**Prayer Response**

*I Will Do a New Thing in You*

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "I will do a new thing in you; I will do a new thing in you; What-ev - er you ask for, what-ev - er you pray for, noth - ing shall be de - nied," sa-ith the Lord; sa-ith the Lord! Lord!

**Prayer of Jesus**

You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with the version here:

**Our God, 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.**

**Sharing Our Gifts**

**Offertory**     *Freedom Is Coming/We Shall Not Give Up the Fight*     South African freedom songs  
Freedom is coming, oh yes I know.

Refrain: We shall not give up the fight we have only started.  
(Congregation joins on refrains)  
Together we'll have victory, hand holding hand.  
Never ever put to flight, we're bound to win.

**Prayer of Thanks**

**For your goodness O God, for your teaching in Jesus, and for your Spirit who calls us to action, we give you thanks. Take and use the gifts we give, now and through this week, for the sake of the world you love so much. Amen.**

**Hymn of Sending**

*Amen*

#161 (African American spiritual)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**We're so glad you worshiped here today!**

**Thanks to this week's leaders:**

Ushers: Ann Sullivan, Linda Larson, Cheryl Rempel, Carol Rutz, Mary Savina

Digital Greeter: Shawn Nuebel

A special thanks to Lori Dokken and Steve Jennings for accompanying the service this Sunday. It is always a pleasure to have your music blessing our space.

**This Week at First UCC:**

**Sunday, January 15**

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour  
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

**Wednesday, January 18**

5:30 p.m. WFFF  
6:30 p.m. Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, January 22**

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour  
11:45 a.m. Budget Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

**Annual Meeting Schedule**

***January 15 (today):*** Annual Reports need to be submitted to Grove at [church@firstucc.org](mailto:church@firstucc.org)

***January 22:*** Meeting after worship to go over the budget in detail and answer any questions.

***January 29:*** Annual Meeting after worship!

**Coffee Hour Volunteers and Coordinator Needed**

Volunteer hosts are needed for Coffee Hour! Volunteering is easy to do, and orientation will be provided for those who are new to Coffee Hour hosting. Interested? [Sign up to host here.](#) First UCC is also looking

for a volunteer to serve as the Coffee Hour coordinator. If you are interested, please contact [church@firstucc.org](mailto:church@firstucc.org).

### **New Office Manager & Director of Communications Needed**

We once again find ourselves in need of a new Office Manager and Director of Communications. If you know anyone interested in this important part-time position, please have them contact Cindy Maddox at [seniorminister@firstucc.org](mailto:seniorminister@firstucc.org).

### **ISAIAH Update**

**ISAIAH** with other organizations ask all who are called to rally at the State Capitol, 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Blvd: **Jan. 17, 9:30 am to 12, for Democracy** -- expanding voting registration and restoring the vote to 60,000 who served their time in prison and are on probation or parole and still can't vote. And, **Jan 18, 11:15 – 1:30 for Paid Family and Medical Leave** for all in MN regardless of our income, occupation, race or gender. Let ISAIAH know you're coming to either by registering at [this form](#). Contact Leota Goodney at [leotagoodney@hotmail.com](mailto:leotagoodney@hotmail.com) or 507-581-0482 about the possibility of carpooling from Northfield.

### **Master recycler/composter course is back!**

River Bend Nature Center, along with the City of Northfield and Carleton College are again offering a FREE master recyclers course. Meetings will be **Saturday mornings 10-noon from February 4 - March 11**. Register by emailing [education@rbnc.org](mailto:education@rbnc.org), or calling 507-332-7151.

### **Meals on Wheels**

We only need **one** more volunteer to drive on **Saturday January 21**. If you are interested, please email [anniekramer@charter.net](mailto:anniekramer@charter.net).

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Bulletin cover art: "Come and See" by Lauren Wright Pittmann | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

Artist statement: *The refrain of this narrative is piercing and simple: "Come and See." Come—Jesus calls us to move, to change our position and see things from a new perspective. See—Jesus invites us into a spirit of curiosity, to open our eyes and to strive to take in the vastness of whoever is before us. As the disciples come together, each with their own experiences and particularities, a patchwork understanding of Jesus is pieced together. Like a relay, they pass to one another a glimpse of who Jesus is, and the picture gains more detail, complexity, and texture. The beauty of this text is that we need one another—from our particular, unique points of view—to be able to find understanding and to begin to take in the full picture of ourselves and the world around us. We need one another to discover the fullness of who Jesus is.*

## **DO YOU GIVE THROUGH BREEZE ONLINE GIVING?**

We've had a number of issues with Breeze Online Giving at the end of the year and the start of the new one. Please read through this and take any action that may be required.

### **Duplicate payments**

In some cases Breeze has started up new payments for 2023 while still continuing the 2022 payments. This has caused some people to give twice at the start of the year. Pippa was able to disable the duplicates, many of which were disabled before the duplicate was pulled.

However, some people have given twice when not meaning to. If you are one of those people we have the following solutions for you. 1) We can give you a full refund. 2) We can count the extra donation as an unpledged gift. 3) We can count the extra donation towards your 2023 pledge.

If this has happened to you, and you have not already done so, please let Pippa know at [finance@firstucc.org](mailto:finance@firstucc.org) and we'll sort it out.

### **Donations set up for the wrong giving year or as an unpledged gift.**

In some cases gifts have been set up as unpledged when they are meant to be pledged. In some cases Breeze had continued to attribute your 2023 pledged gift for 2022.

If you give through Breeze please check that your gift is set up correctly by doing the following:

- 1) Log into your Breeze account. It can also be accessed through the church directory.
- 2) Click on Manage recurring gifts.
- 3) Find your gift or gifts.
- 4) Click on change.
- 5) Click on show more options.
- 6) Make sure that the fund it is going to is the correct one. In particular, if it says 2022 it should be changed to 2023 (either local or OCWM).

# Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.  
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

## **Worship Information**

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here!

## **Giving to the Church**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. Give online by visiting [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org) and clicking "Donate Online Now!" under the "Giving" tab, place your gift in the offering plate, or send in your gifts via mail.

## **News & Announcements**

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter, at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org), and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at [firstucc.org](http://firstucc.org).

## **First UCC Leadership & Staff**

**Ministers:** All the people

**Moderator:** Deb Gottfried

**Senior Minister:** Rev. Cindy Maddox

**Associate Minister:** Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

**Director of Music:** Chris Brunelle

**Organist:** Theo Wee

**Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator:** Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

**Audio Visual Technician:** Brynn Artley

**Office Manager & Director of Communications:** *Position Open*

**Finance Manager:** Pippa Younger

**Sexton:** Mark Fischer