

GAYLORD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 7, 2021
Morning Meditation



“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences,
penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.” –Maya Angelou

Welcome and News of the Church

Statement of Welcome

**No matter who I am, No matter where I am on life’s journey, I am welcome here.
No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey,
You are welcome here!**

Statement of Purpose

One: Who are you?	All: I am a beloved child of God!
One: What does that mean?	All: I am a person of worth to be valued!
One: Then what will you do?	All: I will live a life of Love and Acceptance of myself and all God’s people!

- ❖ **Our service** will be *live streamed* each time we meet. The service is also recorded and will be available later for viewing from our web page and Facebook. To view our service on the website click on the link: <https://listen2god.org/weekly-message/>
- ❖ **Pastor Dennis** will be gone January 31 – February 13. He will preach on Feb. 14th.
- ❖ **Emergency Pastoral** needs should be directed to Gail Estenson, Head Deacon.
- ❖ **Communion** will be on February 14th when Pastor Dennis is back.
- ❖ Thank you to Todd Iverson who will be preaching today and Kari Evans for playing.
- ❖ Our *From the Heart Offering* this month is for Souper Bowl of Caring for the Food Shelf.

Prelude

Kari Evans

The Call

Psalm 147:1-11

Praise the Lord! It’s a good thing to sing praise to our God; praise is beautiful, praise is fitting. GOD’s the one who rebuilds Jerusalem, who regathers Israel’s scattered exiles. He heals the heartbroken and bandages their wounds. He counts the stars and assigns each a name. Our Lord is great, with limitless strength; we’ll never comprehend what he knows and does. GOD puts the fallen on their feet again and pushes the wicked into the ditch. Sing to GOD a thanksgiving hymn, play music on your instruments to God, who fills the sky with clouds, preparing rain for the earth, then turning the mountains green with grass, feeding both cattle and crows. He’s not impressed with horsepower; the size of our muscles means little to him. Those who fear GOD get GOD’s attention; they can depend on his strength.

Call to Worship

One:	Good people of the church, Lift up your eyes and see.
All:	Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God greets us here.
One:	Good servants of the Most High, open your ears to hear.
All:	Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God meets us here.
One:	Good children of the light, open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.
All:	For we have seen, heard and known from the beginning to the end, Our God...is.

Gathering Prayer

One: Eternal God, Creator of the universe. We call on you, you who greet us here. We give you thanks for making it possible to gather, and to ponder your eternal mysteries.
Make us creatures of this time and space, ready collaborators with your endless grace.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult"

NCH #172

Piano: Play through hymn once (words are spoken)

**People: Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us, saying "Christian, follow me."
In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."
Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.**

Confession

One: What do we hold and treasure most?

All: Is it the promises of God?

One: What captivates our attention?

All: Is it the grace of God?

One: God of mercy and grace:

**All: We are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable.
We are broken people who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness.
Heal us, O God, to make us better healers. Mend our rifts, that we might be better
builders. Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression.
We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better.**

Assurance of Pardon

One: Have you known? Have you heard? Our God lifts us up on eagle's wings.
Strengthening us so that we won't be weary. The burden of sin is but a far and distant
memory. For, through Christ, our sins – all of them – are forgiven.

All: God is great in strength, mighty in power, and full of endless love for us all.

Piano Doxology

NCH #780

Scripture Mark 1:29 – 39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Prayer of the People: God of community, gather us in and make us one. For in that uniting we pray together: **Our Father 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

One: All of us have our thresholds – places beyond which it can be so difficult to move. For many of us, generous giving represents such a threshold. Some of us have given in the same way, even giving the same amount, as we did when we were little children. Some of us have never given before. Some of us want to give, but have no idea how. Giving takes so many shapes – but, like any spiritual discipline, the key is for that gift to grow. We grow in our knowledge of God, we grow in our faith. If we aren't already, may we not seek to grow in our giving, as well? In the time we give? In the money we give? In the love we give? Let us ponder this growth, and may God shine God's light across the threshold.

Dedication

**All: God of all that is, all we have, all we are – we give.
We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns.
We give these gifts, knowing that they will give so much more.
Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Sending *“Lord, Dismiss us with Your Blessing”* vs 1 & 2 NCH #77

Piano: Play through hymn once (words are spoken)

1. **Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**
2. **We give thanks and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound:
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound:
Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.**

Benediction

One: May God bless and keep you. May God's face shine through yours.
And may the glorious, Triune God protect and keep you,
All the days long.

All: Amen.

Postlude

Kari Evans

Remember in Prayer: Sandy Wentzloff, Bill and Nancy Cowell, Dick Carlson, Eunice Gasow, Aggie Schue, and Greg Armstrong (Howard's brother). We pray for health and healing for all people. Pray especially for those serving on the front lines caring for those with COVID-19. Pray for the ministries of our church. Pray for those serving in the military and for our local and national leaders.

Our sympathy and prayers go to the family and friends of Paul Schue who passed away on January 29th.