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January 25, 2026
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

Gratitude

Our Purpose—Follow Christ

United in Christ's love, a just world for all

January 25, 2026

Singing Prelude

*I Come to You
tune: Poor Wayfaring Stranger*

Brown/Folk Tune

**I come to you, the lost and scattered;
I come to you, the smug and strong;
I come to you, the souls ungathered;
now come to me, learn you belong.**

**Leave all you've done, I am forgiving;
leave all you've known to come and see;
leave all you've owned, you're just beginning;
leave all you've been and follow me.**

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God's Presence

Bringing in the Light of Christ *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

Redman

Meditation **Gratitude**
Bella Handbell Choir

Guebert

Responsive Call to Worship Gary Leidheiser

Come, people of God—the dawn is breaking!
A new day rises where sorrow had settled in.

The dawn is breaking—and we rise with it.

Where burdens have bent us low,
the Holy One draws near, steadyng our steps.

The Holy One draws near—and we gather our courage.

Where yokes have weighed on shoulders and spirits,
God is loosening what has held us down.

What held us down is lifting—and we move toward freedom.

Come, all who yearn for justice;
 all who hope for healing;
 all who hunger for joy.

**We come to the dawning way,
 we come to the hopeful way,
 we come to the way God makes glorious.**

***Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (back page)

*Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Holy One,

Your light dawns where our shadows are deepest.

You are never far, your presence remains with us.

Your compassion rises like morning light!

**Awaken us to the glimmers of your glory
breaking into our world's weariness.**

Shine upon the paths we walk—

**paths obstructed by fear, uncertainty,
and the heavy burdens our communities carry.**

Lift from our shoulders the weight we carry:

the worries we rehearse,

the fears we nurture,

the habits that hold us tight,

the patterns we cling to,

the moments we turn from compassion,

the truths we avoid.

Unbind what tightens around our hearts.

**We drop the nets of our previous preoccupations, ready for You
to shape us for your healing, just, and generous work.**

Help us see your radiance in overlooked places and in one another.

Make us ready, alert, and courageous—

 a people who move with your Spirit,

 who join your work of release,

 and who make glorious the way

where your compassion, peace, and joy can flourish.

Awaken us. Amen.

*Words of Grace

Into every place of strain or sorrow, God's peace draws near.

God's compassion comforts. God's justice opens a way forward.

God calls and welcomes each of us into the beloved community.

Filled with grace, we begin anew. Amen.

*Response

I Come to You v. 2

Brown/Folk Tune

**I come to you, the disregarded;
I come to you, the scarred and shamed;
I come to you, the brokenhearted,
now come to me and be reclaimed.**

Leave all you've done, I am forgiving;
leave all you've known to come and see;
leave all you've owned, you're just beginning;
leave all you've been and follow me.

We Encounter God in the Word

From the Prophets

Isaiah 9:1-4

NRSVue

God is still speaking. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

Come, Follow Me

Kupferschmid

From the Gospels

Matthew 4:18-23

New International Version

The Word of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Gratitude

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

“Our Purpose—Follow Christ”

We Respond to God's Grace

Congregational Prayers

Silent Prayers

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, (pause for prayer)

hallowed be your name. (pause for prayer)

Thy kingdom come, (pause for prayer)

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (pause for prayer)

Give us this day our daily bread. (pause for prayer)

Forgive us (pause for prayer) **As we forgive** (pause for prayer)

For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, (pause for prayer)

Forever (pause for prayer) **Amen.**

Musical Response

In Gratitude and Humble Trust

Christierson

In gratitude and humble trust

we bring our best today

to serve your cause and share your love

with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

We Share God's Love

Invitation to Generosity

(Offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.)

*Song of Gratitude

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Extravagantly Generous God,
You are the source of every gift and every new beginning.
We give thanks for the joy You are stirring among us
as we act with purpose to dedicate all that we offer You
in service to the work of compassion
that you have entrusted to our care. Amen.**

We Go to Carry the Light

*Hymn

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore (next 2 pages)

vs. 1: All vs. 2 in Spanish: Jeff Cook v. 2 in English: All

*Blessing and Benediction

*Sending Blessing

I Come to You v. 3

Brown/Folk Tune

I come to you, the false and failing;
I come to you, the wild and worn;
I come to you, the wronged and railing;
now come to me and be reborn.

Leave all you've done, I am forgiving;
leave all you've known to come and see;
leave all you've owned, you're just beginning;
leave all you've been and follow me.

Postlude

What a Wonderful World

Thiele/Weiss

**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude
as the Light of Christ is carried into the world.
The worship has ended; our service begins.**

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979; alt.

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall. 1989: alt.

One of the most popular hymns to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious songs in Spain, this text has been translated into nearly eighty languages. The Spanish composer-author was a parish priest known for his work among youth.

Type: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

OR DE HOMBRES

8.10.10. with terrain
Cesáreo Gabarrán 1939

CCILLI license #11176734 *Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo 1987* Cesáreo Gabarrán, 1979

A7

D

son - ri - en - do, has di - cho mi nom - bre;
kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.

D7

G

F#m

en la a - re - na he de-ja - do mi bar - ca;
On the sand I have a-ban-doned my small boat;

B7

Em

A7

D

jun - to a ti bus-ca - ré o - tro mar.
now with you I will seek oth-er seas.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,
 3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blessed,
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



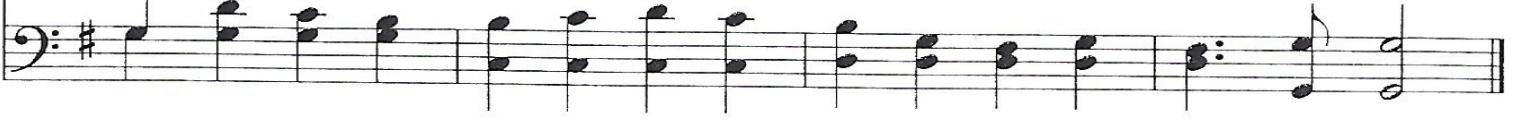
Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open-ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Bound-less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.



Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759-1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846
 CCLI License #11176734

Worship materials are taken from
Make Glorious the Way: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany
by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard;
John van de Laar <https://sacredise.com>

Supporting Our Service Today

Acolyte: Bella Clapham **Liturgist:** Wendy Gary Leidheiser

Welcome Table: Barbara Martinage **Greeter:** Jenny Steindam

Head Usher: Harold Steindam **Usher Team:** Mel Burrowes, Phil Enscoe,
Jim and Linda Forristall, Helen Markus, Holly Vincent

Technology Team

(Live Streaming, Camera, and Sound Technicians)

Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely, Maria Groody, David Jack, Linda Newton,
Wally Davis, Patty Fjetland, Scott Mellen, Gary and Sharon Leidheiser

The **Lord's Table** was decorated by Victoria Augustine

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given by a Friend of VUCC

The **Church Sign** was changed by Faye Newton and Lisa Sclafani

Sunday Librarian: Sherry Howe

Fellowship Time: Toni and John Yahres

Coming Events (partial list)

- • **5:30 PM, Tuesday, January 27, Word Made Flesh Dinner/Program Naar Hall
- 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Saturday, January 31, Venice Garden Club Flower Show—Naar Hall
- Thursday, February 5, Naar Hall closes at noon to set up for coin show—no admittance
 - Friday/Saturday, February 6-7, Venice Coin Club Show—Naar Hall
- 8-12, Mon.-Fri., Feb. 9-13, Sorting and Pricing for Rummage Sale **HELP NEEDED**
- 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, Saturday, February 14, Women's Fellowship Rummage Sale
 - **12:00 Noon, February 17, Fat Tuesday Pancake lunch, Naar Hall
 - 12:30 PM, February 18, Ash Wednesday—Sanctuary
- February 21-22, “Handbell Weekend” with guest ringers from Winter Haven
 - Rehearsals on Saturday; play in worship on Sunday
 - Sunday, February 22, CROP Walk

**Sign up in Naar Hall

Senior Minister

Rev. Barbara Dickason

Music Staff

Barbara Quinn: Music Director

Lynda Weston: Bella Handbell Director

Other Staff

Gary Leidheiser: Custodian

Barb Quinn: Office Assistant

Church office hours are Mon.-Thurs., 9-1

Would you like to donate to VUCC online? Use your Smart Phone to scan the QR code below, and it will take you directly to our donations page. It is really easy!



This Week at a Glance

Monday, January 26

12:00 PM SpiritFed!

Noon Bible Study via Zoom (link below)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4OarYUtofaom.1>

Meeting ID: 835 7659 4637

Passcode: 913882

(The easiest way to connect is to use the link in the Connect.)

6:30 PM Bridge - Parlor

Tues. 01-27

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

10:00 AM Leadership Council—CR

1:45 PM On the Spot Board—CR

5:30 PM Word Made Flesh Dinner/Program—

Naar Hall

6:00 PM Girl Scouts

Wed. 01-28

9:00 AM-12:00 Library open

10:00 AM Bible Study - CR

3:30 PM Youth Bell Ringers

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thurs. 01-29

10:00 AM VAGC—Naar Hall

2:00 PM Human Resources—Parlor

4:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 PM Daisies

Fri. 01-30

8:30 AM Men's Weekly Coffee at Panera

Set up for Garden Club Flower Show

Sat. 01-31

10:00 AM VAGC Flower Show—NH

11:00 AM-2:00 PM Parlor open for judges' lunch

Sun. 02-01

9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

9:00 AM Library Hour

10:00 AM Worship (in situ and virtual)

After Worship

Fellowship Time; Word Made Flesh Q&A—
CR