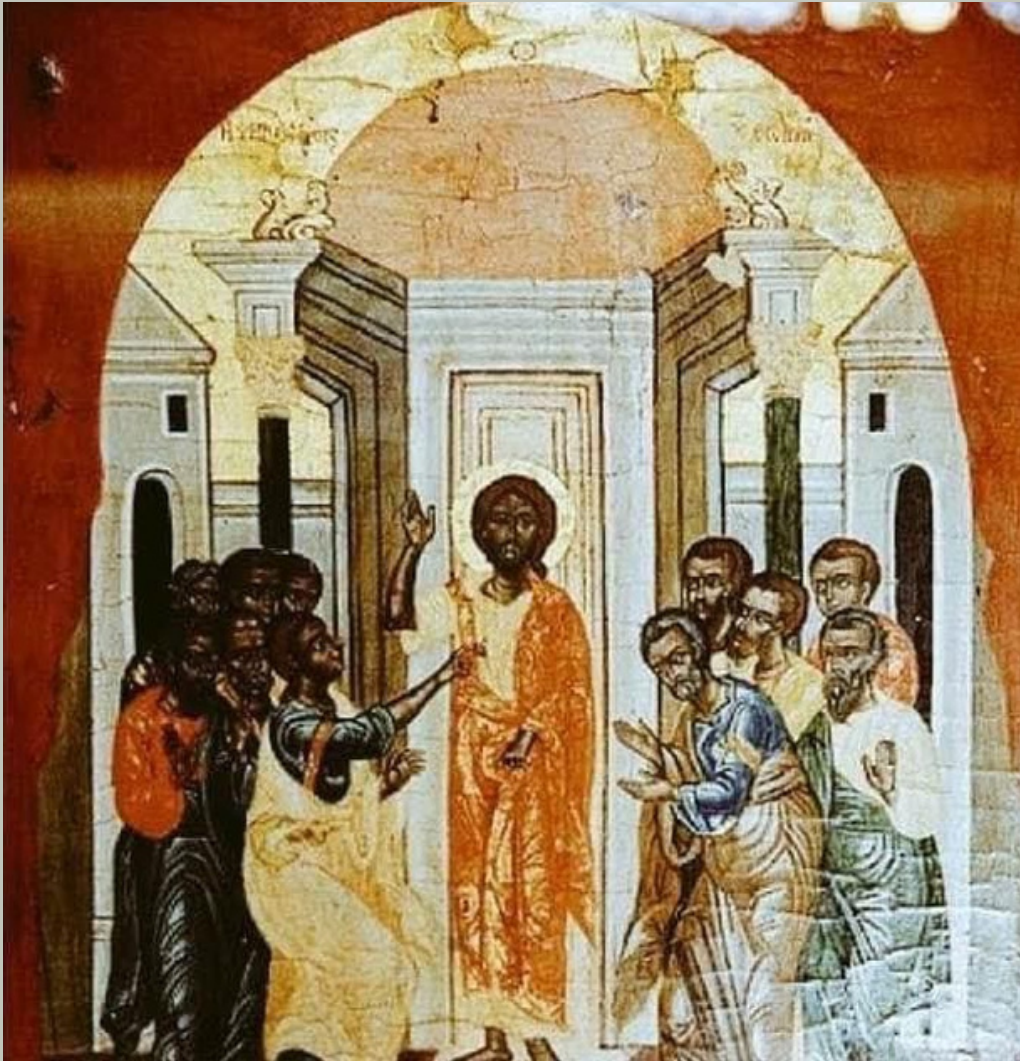




First Congregational United Church of Christ February 25, 2024



Second Sunday in Lent

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

Musician: **Karina Roth** Choir Director: **Ann Russ**

Peace Candle Lighter: **Bruce Tyler** Liturgist: **Byron Aldrich**

Greeter: **Barbara Chiles** Usher: **Not it!**

Coffee-Hour Host: **Ranna and Kevin LeVoir**

Above: Earliest known image of Jesus and his disciples. Coptic Museum in Cairo, Egypt.

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300 West 2nd Street, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Gathering Music
Words of Welcome
Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (based upon Psalm 34)

One: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Many: **I sought the LORD, and was answered, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to God, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.**

One: This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who love God, and delivers them.

Many: **O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in God. O love the LORD, you who are holy, for those who are in awe have no want.**

Opening Hymn The Kin-dom of God is the Queerest of Nations ([click here](#))

Words of Lament

All Present and Merciful God, there are people, your children, who are in danger because of who you made them to be. There are those who suffer bullying and abuse every day because of their identity whether from government authorities, religious bigotry, community leaders, and their peers in school. We lift the family and friends of Nex Benedict, and all LGBTQ+ youth and adults who are afraid that they or a loved one will be next. WAKE US UP and open the hearts and minds of all people to see your amazing and beautiful children, who are created in your image. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Time of Silence

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peacemakers as a Just Peace Church.

Plans // my agenda brings all the noise to the yard By Boxes

My agenda is a part of me
A plan of who I am
It speaks of how I think of things
Reminds me that I can

It may be hard to understand
An explanation I don't have
My agenda is a part of me
Don't you tell me to behave



When I'm happy I'm not thinking
When I'm down I've gone astray
When I'm angry that's just natural
If I scared you; it's ok <3

My agenda is a part of me
In my plan you get no say

My agenda is apart of me
Shining second coat of paint

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading – Mark 10:32-52 (Common English Bible)

32 Jesus and his disciples were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, with Jesus in the lead. The disciples were amazed while the others following behind were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside again, he told them what was about to happen to him. **33** “Look!” he said. “We’re going up to Jerusalem. The Human One[a] will be handed over to the chief priests and the legal experts. They will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles. **34** They will ridicule him, spit on him, torture him, and kill him. After three days, he will rise up.”

35 James and John, Zebedee’s sons, came to Jesus and said, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” **36** “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

37 They said, “Allow one of us to sit on your right and the other on your left when you enter your glory.” **38** Jesus replied, “You don’t know what you’re asking! Can you drink the cup I drink or receive the baptism I receive?”

39 “We can,” they answered. Jesus said, “You will drink the cup I drink and receive the baptism I receive, **40** but to sit at my right or left hand isn’t mine to give. It belongs to those for whom it has been prepared.”

41 Now when the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with James and John. **42** Jesus called them over and said, “You know that the ones who are considered the rulers by the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. **43** But that’s not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant. **44** Whoever wants to be first among you will be the slave of all, **45** for the Human One didn’t come to be served but rather to serve and to give his life to liberate many people.”

46 Jesus and his followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, together with his disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus’ son, was sitting beside the road. **47** When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!” **48** Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, “Son of David, show me mercy!”

49 Jesus stopped and said, “Call him forward.” They called the blind man, “Be encouraged! Get up! He’s calling you.” **50** Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus. **51** Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said, “Teacher, I want to see.” **52** Jesus said, “Go, your faith has healed you.” At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

Children’s Message Wishing and Prayers

Choir Baptized and Set Free

Message What do you want me to do

Musical Reflections

Anointing (See Insert)

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

Doxology

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

Closing Hymn #2 Glory, Glory Hallelujah ([click here](#))

Benediction

Sending Music



**OPEN AND AFFIRMING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Opening Hymn **The Kin-dom of God is the Queerest of Nations**

1. The Kin-dom of God is the queerest of nations
with peasants its leaders, no borders in sight.
There's kindness and peace at the heart of its creation,
an endless celebration of joy and delight.

2. The Kin-dom of God is an up-side-down kingdom.
The first are now last and the last are now first.
The humble exalted, the children bearing wisdom.
The wealthy and the poor have their stations reversed.

3. The Kin-dom of God is a lot like the leaven
we use in our baking when we add the yeast.
The work of a woman will point us to the heaven
a waiting the lepers, the lost, and the least.

4. The Kin-dom of God welcomes all to the table,
no matter your status, your heart will be fed.
Whatever your sadness, the Realm of Love is able.
Whatever your label, partake of the bread.

5. The Kin-dom of God is our ultimate promise
if we, like the prophet, will open our hearts.
the hour is here and the work is now upon us.
Our lives will be a witness. In wonder we start.

Lyrics: Amanda Udis-Kessler

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Music: Adrian Valerius's *Nederlandsch Gedemckclanck*, 1626

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Closing Hymn #2 **Glory, Glory Hallelujah**

1. Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
2. I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.
3. Feel like shouting “Hallelujah” since I laid my burdens down.
Feel like shouting “Hallelujah” since I laid my burdens down.
4. I am dancing Miriam’s dance now, since I laid my burdens down.
I am dancing Miriam’s dance now, since I laid my burdens down.
5. I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, since I laid my burdens down.
I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, since I laid my burdens down.
6. Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.
Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down.

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*African-American Spiritual
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992
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