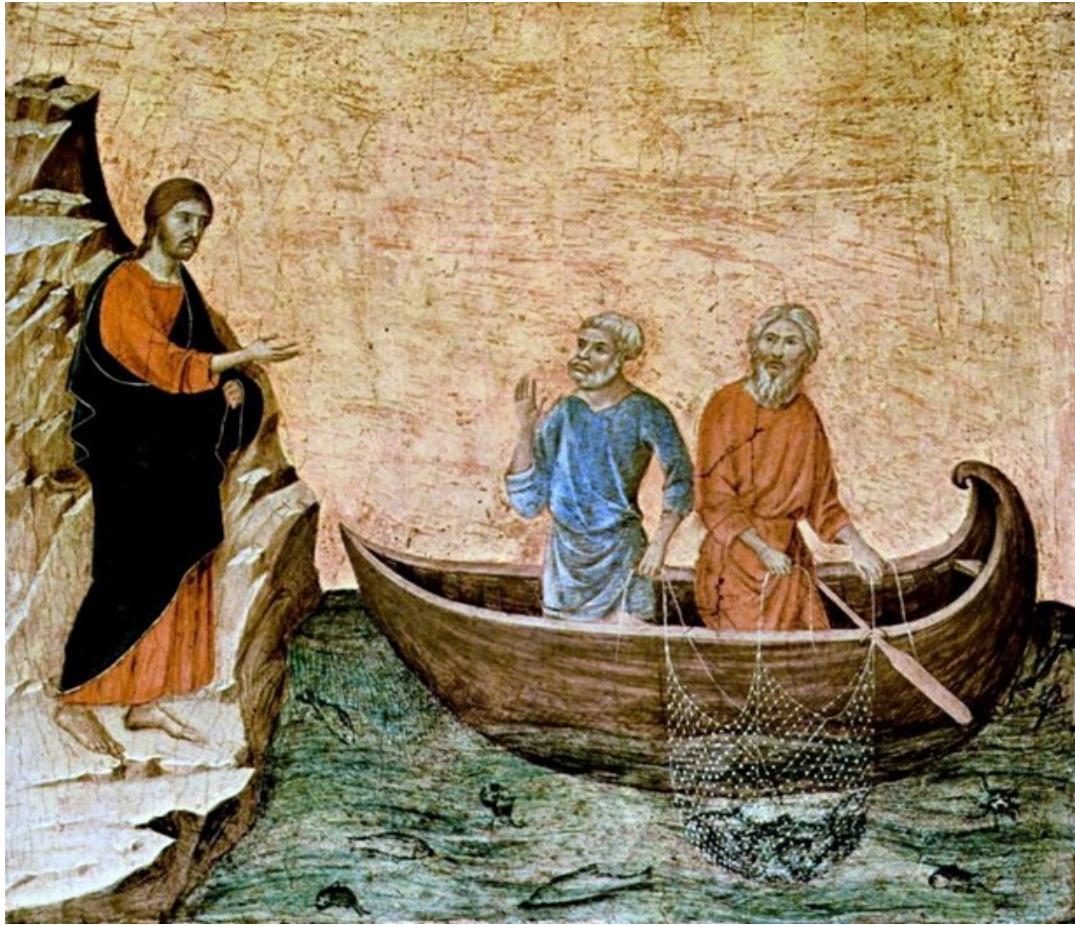


First Congregational United Church of Christ

JANUARY 15, 2023



Painting by Duccio di Buoninsegna

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Ben Nichols

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Sandy Stover

Liturgist: Linda Noble

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship Based on Psalm 40

People who like to fish: I waited patiently for the LORD; God inclined to me and heard my cry. God drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock. A new song was put in my mouth and a song of praise to our God.

People who like to eat fish: Happy are they who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

People who like to be on the water: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness.

People who like to sit on the shore: May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Opening Hymn – Testimony (see insert) words and music by Rev. Enno K. Limvere © 2009

Sharing what God has done for you. Telling What Jesus done for me.

Believing the Spirit is at work. Giving our testimony.

1. Long time ago God spoke throughout the land.
Leading the people took them by the hand.
Today in our world God is speaking once again.
Calling us to claim the mighty kingdom.
2. God is present in our hearts and our lives,
So others may know and see with their eyes
To tell the love of God and Jesus his son.
Listen to others our story is one.
3. Tell me your story and I'll tell you mine
How God changed our world turned the darkness to light.
Jesus comes in our moment of need.
As a friend or a mother or a stranger indeed.
4. Joy is ours in the stories we share.
We learn of God's actions believe in God's care.
In Jesus our Christ God's Loves flows.
In the church and through the Spirit we grow.

Words of Lament

Creator God, whose story starts before the beginning, help us have wisdom to hear with open hearts and minds, bodies and souls. There are too many who speak in your name, sharing a distorted story glorifying wealth, power, and privilege. The stories of the poor, the least of these, and the immigrant are ones of apathy, judgment, and condemnation. Rise up, Merciful God, and tell us about the Christ who came to proclaim good news to the poor, heal the sick and free those who are bound. Give us courage to tell your story filled with love, compassion, and justice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Time of Silence

Words for Blessing the Earth "In Praise of the Earth" by John O'Donohue

One: Let us bless the imagination of the Earth. That knew early the patience to harness the mind of time, waited for the seas to warm, ready to welcome the emergence of things dreaming of voyaging in the stillness of the land.

Many: Let us thank the Earth that offers ground for home and holds our feet firm to walk in space open to infinite galaxies.

All: The humility of the Earth that transfigures all that has fallen of outlived growth.

One: The kindness of the Earth, opening to receive our worm forms into final stillness.

Many: Let us ask forgiveness of the Earth, for all our sins against her: for our violence and poisonings of her beauty.

All: Let us remember within us the ancient clay, holding memory of the seasons, the passion of the wind, the fluency of the water, the warmth of the fire, the quiver-touch of the sun and the shadowed sureness of the moon.

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 peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

I Many Times Thought Peace Had Come by Emily Dickinson

*I many times thought Peace had come
When Peace was far away—
As Wrecked Men—deem they sight the Land—
At Centre of the Sea—
And struggle slacker—but to prove
As hopelessly as I—
How many the fictitious Shores—
Before the Harbor be—*

Passing of the Peace

Hymn #281 Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

1. Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.
2. In vain we tune our formal songs,
In vain we strive to rise;
Hosannas languish on our tongues,
And our devotion dies.
3. Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Come, shed abroad a Savior's love,
And that shall kindle ours.

Tune: William Tansur, 1700-1783 Text: Issac Watts, 1674-1748

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, **5** for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— **6** just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— **7** so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. **8** He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2nd Scripture John 1:29-42 (Common English Bible)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.' **31** Even I didn't recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel." **32** John testified, "I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. **33** Even I didn't recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' **34** I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son."

35 The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. **36** When he saw Jesus walking along he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!" **37** The two disciples heard

what he said, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, “What are you looking for?” They said, “Rabbi (which is translated *Teacher*), where are you staying?”

³⁹ He replied, “Come and see.” So, they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated *Christ*). ⁴² He led him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated *Peter*)

Children’s Message

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Choir Anthem

“When We Are Singing” by Kevin T Padsorski.

Message

Come and See

Musical Reflections

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

Our Father, Mother 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 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, forever. Amen

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*

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Closing Hymn #21 God Reigns o’er All the Earth

1. God reigns o’er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
the farms and towns in grids and browns God’s Grace and beauty show.
God reigns o’er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
In rainbow hues – reds, yellows, blues – of streams and country lanes.
2. God reigns o’er human life! Through youth and again years,
In death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o’er human life! Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God’s reigning will.

3. God reigns o'er time and space! In history's bygone days,
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er galaxy and sun,
Through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.
4. God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,
In all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!

Text: © Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

Benediction

Sending Music