



## Union Lutheran Church

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

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*(Please stand when indicated by \*)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal  
With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

#### Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *As With Gladness Men of Old* (Wold)

#### GATHERING

\* Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness WOV p.10-11

\* HYMN: *As With Gladness Men of Old* LBW# 82

\* Greeting WOV. p. 28

\* Kyrie & Hymn of Praise WOV p.28-30

#### \* Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and eternal God, you restrain the powers of heaven and earth. Mercifully hear your people's prayers for peace in our time. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

#### WORD

#### Children's Message

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. <sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." <sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God." <sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him — for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength — <sup>6</sup>he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for

the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” <sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Reader            The word of the Lord.

**C                    Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 40:1-11 *sung responsively (Congregation (bold) and Choir (not bolded))*

Choir <sup>1</sup>I waited patiently up- | on the LORD;\*  
he stooped to me and | heard my cry.

**C            <sup>2</sup>He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | mire and clay;\*  
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my | footing sure.**

Choir <sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;\*  
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD.

**C            <sup>4</sup>Happy are they who trust | in the LORD!\*  
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn | to false gods.**

Choir <sup>5</sup>Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!  
How great your wonders and your | plans for us!\*

there is none who can be com- | pared with you.

**C            <sup>6</sup>Oh, that I could make them | known and tell them!\*  
but they are more than | I can count.**

Choir <sup>7</sup>In sacrifice and offering you | take no pleasure;\*  
you have given me | ears to hear you;

**C            <sup>8</sup>Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not required,\*  
and so I said, “Be- | hold, I come.**

Choir <sup>9</sup>In the roll of the book it is written con- | cerning me:\*

**‘I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep | in my heart.’”**

**C            <sup>10</sup>I proclaimed righteousness in the great | congregation;\*  
behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O | LORD, you know.**

Choir <sup>11</sup>Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and | your deliverance;\*  
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great |  
congregation.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader            The word of the Lord.

**C                    Thanks be to God.**

\* Gospel Acclamation

WOV p.31

\* Holy Gospel: John 1:29-42a

<sup>29</sup>The next day {John} saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup>And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” <sup>35</sup>The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup>He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). <sup>42a</sup>He brought him to Jesus.

Sermon: *Gifted in Christ* (Corinthians Sermon Series 1)

Pastor Heidi Punt

\* HYMN: *Shine Jesus Shine*

WOV# 651

\* Apostles’ Creed

WOV p. 33

\* Prayer of the Church & Sharing of the Peace

WOV p. 34

Offering *The Offering is received as the Lord’s Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Building & Repair Fund. During the month of January, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on Rowan Helping Ministries. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*

Anthem: *Lamb of the Light* (Cornell)

Chancel Choir

#### MEAL

\* Offertory (“*Let the Vineyards...*”) & Offertory Prayer

WOV p. 35

\* Great Thanksgiving & Sanctus

WOV p. 36

\* Words of Institution

WOV p. 37

\* Lord’s Prayer

WOV p. 39

Lamb of God & Distribution of Communion

WOV p. 39

*At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. For*

those who prefer individually sealed units please indicate. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out a communion card located in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

\* Post-Communion Canticle (“Thankful hearts...”) WOV p. 40

\* Post-Communion Prayer WOV p. 41

SENDING

\* Blessing WOV p. 41

\* HYMN: *Arise, Your Light Has Come!* WOV# 652

\* Sending

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

C **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C **Amen, amen, amen**

Postlude: *Arise, Shine for Your Light Has Come* (Sedio)

*The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God in honor of Hudson Miller’s 6<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 19 from Matt, Jill, and Owen Miller.*

**Current Fund Financial Information:**

Offering received Sunday, January 8 \$2,820.00

Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan \$6,482.37

**Those Serving in January**

**Acolytes:** Tyler Goodman and Adam Thompson

**Altar Guild:** Deena Lanning and Karen Morgan

**Communion Assistants:** Deena Lanning, Elbert Kluttz, and Karen Morgan

**Lay Readers:** Deena Lanning, Elbert Kluttz, and Karen Morgan

**Ushers:** Phil and Linda Cauble, Mike and Brenda Cauble, Frank Merrell

**Offering Counters:** Tara Davis, Cathy Painter, and Ron Vellines

**OUR MISSION:**

*Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded~  
Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)*

**OUR VISION:**

*One Relationship at a Time*

**BE OUR GUEST**

*Can't wait to see what God can do!*



With One Voice Setting 5 (p. 28-41) ~ WOV Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness (p. 10-11)

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# Union News

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## Sunday's Activities, January 15:

**9:15 a.m.** Kids Choir

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School

Children & Youth: The Fall Short Report ~ Numbers 13:1-2, 25:14:24

Adult Sunday School Class: God Promises to Guide~ Isaiah 48:3-8a, 17

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Lessons for January 15, 2023: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;

1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42a

Sermon Series focuses on Corinthians: *Gifted in Christ*

**2:00 p.m.** Church Council

**3:00 p.m.** Fresh Eyes Summit in large Fellowship Hall

**5:30 p.m.** Youth Worship preparations

*Epiphany Blessing of the Doorways*

*Deadline for Yearbook reports.*

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## This Weeks' Activities:

Monday, Jan. 16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, Jan. 17

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

Lesson 2: Joy...In Unity with Others

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-2; 2:3-11

Wednesday, Jan. 18

10:30 a.m. Bible Study Lesson 2

2:00 p.m. Lay Ministers

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Friday, Jan. 20-Saturday, Jan. 21 – NALC Disaster Preparedness Training in Wilmington, NC

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## Next Sunday's Activities, January 22:

**9:15 a.m.** Kids Choir

**9:35 a.m.** Sunday School

Children & Youth: The Unlikely Ally ~ Joshua 2

Adult Sunday School Class: God Promises Light ~ Isaiah 58:6-10

**10:30 a.m.** Worship & Holy Communion

Lessons for January 22, 2023: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-9; 1 Corinthians

1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25

Sermon Series focuses on Corinthians: *United in Christ*

**Rescheduled: 12:30 p.m.** Union Women's planning meeting

**2:30 p.m.** Youth Worship preparations

**4:00 p.m.** Luther League Middle & High School Youth at Union

*Deadline for newsletter articles.*

*Jennifer Curlee has reserved the Altar Flowers for Sunday, January 22.*

*As of January 1, 2023, if you wish to continue to list a loved one on the prayers, please contact the church office since we are refreshing the list.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

**Nursing Home Residents** - Brenda Mahaley, Pat & Wayne Miller, and Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care), and Jean Ray (Brookdale)

**Homebound Members** – Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Billy Waller, and Michael Walton

**Sick/Surgery/Recovery** – Nancy Kesler, John Knight, Doug Peeler, Sylvia Peeler

**Continual Prayer** – Evonne Batten, Bill Broadway, Janet Dunning (Doris Shepherd’s sister), Glenn Eagle, Tommy and Joan Kerns, Pat Kluttz, Glenn & Betty Sue Lowder, Della Morgan (Pam Vellines’ mother), Dusty Morgan, Sr. Family (Dusty, Sr., Lisa, Felisaty, and Dusty, Jr.), William Page, Ben Smith (Cathy Painter’s brother-in-law), Effie Vellines, Union Fire Department #76, Haiti (gangs), Nigerian Christians, and those affected by natural or political disasters

**Confirmation Students:** Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Bailey Wilhelm, and Lucas Wilhelm

***January’s Service Projects***

*All are invited to create cards for Union’s shut-ins and nursing home residents. Please drop off your cards near “Joy” Sunday School classroom.*

*Everyone is invited to donate knitting yarn for Sarah Bame. Please drop off yarn in the box located on the pew across from the church office.*

**2023 Offering Envelopes Update**

Due to circumstances outside the control of the church office, 2023 Offering Envelopes will not be available until mid-January or early February.

If you received a physical offering envelope in 2022, the same number has been assigned for 2023.

In 2023, please bring an envelope from home (this will save cost of purchasing blank envelopes for close to 200 households for several weeks) or use the small envelope provided in the pew. Place your offering inside, seal, write your name, offering number (if known), and designate amounts to be distributed to current, benevolence, etc. on the outside.

***PART SIX: Confession of Sin***

*What sins should we confess? Before God we should acknowledge ourselves guilty of all kinds of sins, even those of which we are not aware, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer. To the confessor (a trustworthy Christian to whom we confess), however, we should confess only those sins we know and which troubles us.*



## 2023 Fresh Eyes Summit

Today at 3:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend in the large Fellowship Hall!

Many congregations struggle with decline in attendance and income, transitioning neighborhood and context, lack of coherent and appropriate vision for mission. At the heart of all, we do as Lutherans are the means of grace, Word, and Sacrament, which communicate to us the real presence of Jesus Christ.

In ongoing reflection and conversation, leadership of the North American Lutheran Church has been seeking an integrative approach to congregational assessment, evaluation, and renewal.

The goal of the Fresh Eyes Summit is to involve appropriate leadership in the NALC, together with congregational pastor and leaders, praying first, "Lord, let our eyes be opened!" We then trust that the Lord will give participants fresh eyes to receive new insight and understanding, all aimed at new or renewed direction for mission and ministry as the congregation seeks to follow Jesus firmly and faithfully!

## Epiphany House Blessing

Today

Using chalk, from church, mark the current year and the initials of the Magi above the outside doorways to your home. Place a cross in between each of the letters. It should look something like this:

20 + C + M + B + 23

After completing the above markings pray the following prayer:

*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord of all people forever and ever. Amen.*

The legendary names of the three Magi are: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The initials CMB also stands for the Latin words "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means: "May Christ bless this dwelling."

The marking over the doors should be left all year round as a sign that yours is a Christian home.

*All organizations, committees, groups, and individuals who are to turn in reports for the **ANNUAL YEARBOOK REPORT**, please do so by **today**. This is a very important document in reflecting the life of Union's for the past year and for planning activities for the coming year. We want to get it out to the members of the congregation as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.*

## **NALC Disaster Preparedness Training**

Friday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 21,  
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person

Faith Lutheran Church, 311 Judges Rd. Unit 2B, Wilmington, NC

Please contact Union's church office if you are interested in participating or would like more information regarding the NALC Disaster Preparedness Training.

### ***Bible Study***

*Lesson 3: Joy...That Is Never Ending*

*Tuesday, January 24, at 6:30 p.m.*

*Wednesday, January 25, at 10:30 a.m.*

*Scripture: Philippians 3:1; 3:3-9; 3:10*

*Bottom Line: Never-ending joy is produced in our lives when we have a relationship with God.*

*No meal provided.*

**Offering Counters will meet Thursday, January 26, at 5:45 p.m.**

*Property, Cemetery, & Columbarium Committee will meet Thursday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss upcoming projects and other business brought forth.*

Pastor Heidi Punt will be attending the **2023 NALC Pastors' Conference** from **Tuesday, January 31-Thursday, February 2**, at the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX.

### ***Carolinas Mission Region Event***

*February 25, at 11:00 a.m.*

*St. Peter's, Chapin, SC*

*Union has signed up to donate two items for the Carolinas Mission Region Event on February 25 at St. Peter's, Chapin and we need YOUR help to make this event a success.*

*Please donate, with goal of 200 in mind, 2.5 gallon plastic storage bags and goal of 100 individually-packaged soft toothbrush (must be unopened). Please drop off items on the pew outside of the church office.*

*Volunteers are needed to transport items on February 25 and to assist with collating the kits. Please contact Cheryl Klutz if you can volunteer!*