**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*\* Indicates, please stand if able.*

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 5, 2023 9 am.

Liturgist: Tom Epps

WELCOME, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\***CALL TO WORSHIP*(Matthew 5:13-20, Mark 12:30-31, Matthew 22:36-40, Luke 10:27)*

L: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

**P: We are the salt of the earth.**

L: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

**P: We are the light of the world.**

L: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

**P: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.**

L: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

**P: Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God**

**to worship and follow Jesus.**

\*OPENING PRAYER(Isaiah 58)

**You do not desire a fast of sackcloth and ashes, but a fast of righteous. You ask us to loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke, and set the captives free. Train our hearts to do what is right, O God, not what is easy. May we live our days among the righteous, that we may never be moved, but dwell secure in your mercy and your grace. Amen.**

**\***OPENING HYMN ***The Church of Christ, in Every Age*** #589

CHILDREN’S TIME Tom Epps

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Micah 6, Psalm 15, Matthew 5, 1 Corinthians 1)

**Caretaker of our souls, aid us in our quest. We long to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We yearn to live with such passion and purpose that our lives may be like a city on a hill, resplendent in justice and righteousness for all the world to see. Shine through us this day, for we seek to reflect your glory in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Psalm 27)

The righteous will never be moved. Their hearts are firm and secure in the Lord. May your passion for justice and righteousness keep you near the heart of God.

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Shon

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(In Unison)*

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, forever. Amen.

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS (Micah 6, Matthew 5)

The Divine Deliverer of compassion and care is calling us to serve, and to share our talents and treasures for the good of God’s realm. No matter how we have fallen short in the past, God’s grace assures us a variety of gifts to contribute. How is God calling us to share today?

SPECIAL MUSIC ***Speak and We Will Hear*** (by Joseph Martin & Jimbo Stevens) Choir

**\***DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER Pastor Shon

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 10:1-8

**1**By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” toward you when away! **2**I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. **3**For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. **4**The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **5**We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **6**And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

**7**You are judging by appearances. If anyone is confident that they belong to Christ, they should consider again that we belong to Christ just as much as they do. **8**So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it.

HYMN OF PRAISE ***Filled with the Spirit’s Power*** *#*537

MESSAGE ***Protect My Mind from Destructive Thoughts*** Pastor Shon

HOLY COMMUNION #12-15

\*CLOSING HYMN***Forth in Thy Name, O Lord***#438

**\***BENEDICTION Pastor Shon

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER FAMILIES:** Pray for all those who need healing, or have health issues. Specifically,

pray for those who are in need. Also continue to pray for those in Ukraine and other areas of the

world where people are suffering.

**PRAYER WORKSHOP:** It’s time to pray for our church, nation, and the world together.If you

are interested in Corporate Prayer, come join us. Sunday, Feb. 5th, 10:30 am

**LEADERSHIP RETREAT:** “*Renewing the Church in a Post-Pandemic World*,” Fri, Feb. 24th

5-8 pm – Sat. Feb. 25th 8 am-3 pm. Meals will be provided. Rev. Scott Carlson, a director of

Congregational development of Wis. Conference will be leading this workshop. Everyone is

Welcome! He will be preaching for us on Sunday, Feb. 26.

**YOUTH:** Snow sledding and fellowship at Bruce Mound Ski Resort today after worship service.

Please bring a dish for the potluck lunch taking place in the Rock and Roll Room. Anyone is

welcome!

**WEDNESDAY CONNECTIONS:** Meals will be served by the Youth at 4:45-6 pm.

**TRUSTEES:** will meet tomorrow,Monday, Feb. 6, at 5 pm.

**UNITED WOMEM IN FAITH**: will meet tomorrow, Monday, Feb. 6, at 5:30 pm in the Wesley

Room. Snacks will be served.

**MISSION OUTREACH:** will meet next Sunday, Feb. 12, at 10:30 am in the Keefe Room.

**SCRIP CARDS:** When you are thinking of ideas for gift giving or personal use, consider Scrip

cards**.** Stop at the gathering area on Sundays or call Marcia at 715-284-3346

**FELLOWSHIP**: will be served by Lois Epps

**USHER/GREETERS**: Pat and Diane Moe

**THIS WEEK AT THE CHURCH:**

Mon: Trustees 5 pm UWF 5:30 pm

Wed: Prayer Meeting 10 am Wed. Connections 4:45- 6 pm

Pre-Con 5-6 pm Youth Group 6-7 pm

Confirmation Class 7-8 pm Choir Practice 6-7 pm

Bell Choir Practice 7-8 pm

**Bible Trivia Question of the week**

Jesus told his disciples to be as innocent as:

A. ravens B. foxes

C. wolves D. doves

*→ See* Matthew 10:16

**Black River Falls**

**United Methodist Church**

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**UMC Mission Statement:**

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

PASTOR Rev. Inwha Shon

ORGANIST Matthew Schluntz

MUSIC DIRECTOR Amanda Lang

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