

The United Church of Clinton

*SONG "Lord, I Want to be Christian"

#589

BENEDICTION

SUNG "Amen" (*feel free to clap along!*)

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Bold- Words in bold are said in unison.

Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!

Warm Birthday wishes go out to:

Laura Facendola Golas Feb. 5th

Janet Lamy Feb. 10th

Jon Sidney Sawyer Feb. 13th

Natalie Burgos Feb. 17th

Bob McTague Feb. 24th

Laraine Amelotte Feb. 8th

Sydney Furman Feb. 13th

Jackie Wuth Feb. 16th

Justin O'Toole Feb. 22nd

Chrissy Dobeck Feb. 27th

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to:

Heidi & Eric Furman February 26th

What Is Good: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany was written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, who serves as The Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ. Mystic in the making.

For all joys and concerns mentioned in the Pastor's Tuesday email.

Remember in your prayers our special members: June and Edie K.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON

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February 1, 2026

Pastor, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musician, Kate Lyczkowski

Lay Reader, Shelly O'Toole

Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING *of the BELL/TIME of CENTER*

***CALL to WORSHIP (Micah 6: 6-8 NRSVUE)**

One: With what shall we come before God and bow ourselves before God on high?

Many: What shall we come forth with before the Holy One?

One: God has told us, fellow mortals, what is good and what is required of us.

All: We aim to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.

***SONG of PRAISE *and* SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE**

“Be Thou My Vision”

#595

PRAYER *of the DAY

Holy One, you aren't just good, you are The Good. We welcome Your goodness in any way that it desires to manifest throughout this time of worship. May something be preached, prayed, or sung, that changes us for good, and for good. Amen.

***AFFIRMING *and* CONNECTING (Passing of the Peace) We sing: “Peace be with You”**
Twice.

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen. Amen. (*Be seated*)

Moment for All God's Children

Lord's Prayer 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

***SONG “Softly and Tenderly”**

#340

SCRIPTURE Psalm 15 (Common English Version)

PRAYER *of* TRANSFORMATION *and* NEW LIFE

When we do good, challenges are ever present. Sometimes, the challenges can be overwhelming and so we're tempted to retreat or stay silent. Help us to remember all that you do for our good so that we can go forth and do the same.

WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5: 1-12 (Common English Version)

Meditation - Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musical Meditation

INVITATION *to* GENEROSITY

Passing of the Plate

DOXOLOGY (Use whatever words are comfortable for you)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). Amen.

PRAYER *of* THANKSGIVING *and* DEDICATION

Good God may these good offerings be used to get up to good trouble for the liberation of us all. Amen.

At This Table: A Service of Communion

(Found in insert)

At This Table: A Service of Communion

***Communion Hymn “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”**

#419

The Invitation

Come, all who hunger. Come all who thirst. Come no matter what’s needed because everyone needs something and everyone needs someone.

At this table, you are included and room is ever being made to include more. More love, more understanding, more food, more drink, more community, and more good and goodness. Your invitation is eternal for this table belongs to God. We don’t get to decide who we sit next to, but we do get to decide to enjoy whoever is seated.

So come to the table, where strangers become friends, friends become family, and family keeps expanding. Come as you are and leave better than how you came.

***Communion Prayer**

In the beginning, the earth was formed. It was the first table that all creations were invited to. This table has gone through several iterations and holds steady. Jesus was at this table at some point in history. He lived, he taught, he was put to death, and then he resurrected. In doing all these things, he taught us a new way to look at tables and how to set them inclusively. He showed us that we are included in the heart and mind of God always and he taught us how to include those who might be inclined to label as “other.” For these reasons among many others, we give thanks for this meal.

***Words of Institution**

We remember that night during the Passover Jesus had his last meal at a table, with those closest to him. There, they shared their love of God and Jesus and of each other. In the midst of love, Jesus gave thanks and broke the bread and said, something like this, “Take and eat this gift from the earth and from the human hands that prepared it and know that God gives it to you, a blessing for your body and your spirit.” Later, Jesus took a cup and after blessing it said something like this, “Drink this fruit of the vine, the gift of the sun and labor in the fields. Taste and know the goodness of God.”

***Prayer of the Holy Spirit**

Come Holy Spirit. Bless this bread and cup and bless each of us. May these elements transform us. May they inspire and give us courage to follow the way of Jesus, which is ever inclusive and expanding.

Come, let’s eat this bread and drink this cup together.

***Closing Prayer**

Together we trust in this moment of transformation which is made possible by You. Give us the strength to continue on the journey and to set tables that are welcoming and expanding.

Psalm 15

A psalm of David.

15 Who can live in your tent, LORD?

Who can dwell on your holy mountain 2 The person who lives free of blame, does what is right, and speaks the truth sincerely; 3 who does no damage with their talk, does no harm to a friend, doesn't insult a neighbor; 4 someone who despises those who act wickedly, but who honors those who honor the LORD; someone who keeps their promise even when it hurts; 5 someone who doesn't lend money with interest, who won't accept a bribe against any innocent person. Whoever does these things will never stumble.

Matthew 5: 1-12

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. **2** He taught them, saying: **Happy people** **3** "Happy are people who are hopeless, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. **4** "Happy are people who grieve, because they will be made glad. **5** "Happy are people who are humble, because they will inherit the earth. **6** "Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, because they will be fed until they are full. **7** "Happy are people who show mercy, because they will receive mercy. **8** "Happy are people who have pure hearts, because they will see God. **9** "Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children. **10** "Happy are people whose lives are harassed because they are righteous, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. **11** "Happy are you when people insult you and harass you and speak all kinds of bad and false things about you, all because of me. **12** Be full of joy and be glad, because you have a great reward in heaven. In the same way, people harassed the prophets who came before you.

found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated *Christ*[a]). **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*).

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 49: 1-4 (Common English Version)

The servant speaks up

49 Listen to me, coastlands; pay attention, peoples far away. The LORD called me before my birth, called my name when I was in my mother’s womb.**2** He made my mouth like a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of God’s own hand. He made me a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in God’s quiver,**3** saying to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I show my glory.”**4** But I said, “I have wearied myself in vain. I have used up my strength for nothing.” Nevertheless, the LORD will grant me justice; my reward is with my God.

SCRIPTURE John 1: 29-42 (Common English Version)

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.” **Jesus calls disciples** **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

