

**PRAYER of THANKSGIVING and DEDICATION**

Holy One, receive the gifts we share. Turn them toward compassion, stretch them toward peace, and let your joy be known through all we do.

**\*COMMUNION** (found in insert)

**\*SONG** "Spirit Song"

#352

**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:***

***Julie Dietel January 4th***

***Teresa Sontag January 17th***

***Donald Dobeck III January 24th***

***Shelly O'Toole January 13th***

***Sarah Irvine January 23rd***

***Justin Newton January 24th***

***Happy Anniversary wishes go out to:***

***Carolyn & Tom Ryan January 9th***

*Stretched Them Out: Service Prayers for The Baptism of Christ/Epiphany 1A was written by Rev. Michael Anthony Howards who serves as Minister of Faith in Action for Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast. Michael's work supports congregations as they weave theology, justice, and place-based ministry into faithful action that bears prophetic witness to God's dwelling among us.*

*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**

**109 Haskell Avenue Clinton, Massachusetts 01510**

Website: [clintonunitedchurch.org](http://clintonunitedchurch.org) E:Mail: [Uccclintonma@gmail.com](mailto:Uccclintonma@gmail.com)

[rev.marilyn.uccclintonma@gmail.com](mailto:rev.marilyn.uccclintonma@gmail.com)

# The United Church of Clinton



**January 11, 2026**

Pastor, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musician, Laura Troisi

Lay Reader, Kelly Colby

## Ministers, The People of God

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

First Sunday after Epiphany/Communion Sunday

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING *of the BELL/TIME of CENTER*

### \*CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Come, you who are weary, you who has been bruised by life, you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.

**All: We come, longing to be renewed.**

Leader: The Holy One who stretches out the heavens is stretching us now—stretching our hearts toward compassion, our lives toward gentle justice.

**All: We open ourselves to be stretched into new life.**

Leader: A voice from heaven says to us, as it said to Jesus: You are my beloved. This Spirit rests upon us, too.

**All: We are God's Beloved, called to bring gentle justice.**

Leader: Come, let us remember who we are.

**All: Let us worship God with joy.**

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

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

#261

### \*PRAYER of the DAY

Holy One, Breath of Creation, You stretched out the heavens and set the earth dancing with life. You whispered belovedness over Jesus rising from the Jordan, and your Spirit rested upon him like a gentle dove. Rest your Spirit upon us now. Stretch our hearts where they have grown tight. Soften the places that have been hardened by fear or disappointment. Wake the embers of joy that still glow beneath the ash. Remind us that we are your Beloved, not because of what we have done, but because of who You are and the love that holds us. As we gather at the water today, let us remember who we are, and who we are becoming together—your people of compassion, courage, and gentle justice. In the name of Christ, the One who shows us how to be human, we pray. 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 "Loving Spirit"

#244

SCRIPTURE Psalm 29: 1-5, 11 (Common English Version)

### PRAYER of TRANSFORMATION *and* NEW LIFE

We are the body of Christ— not alone, but together. We are God's beloved. We are called to bring gentle justice. We will not break the bruised reed. We will not extinguish the smoldering flame. We will walk in compassion, courage, and joy. This is our covenant. This is our life together. Amen.

### WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

Look! God's dwelling is now among us. By grace, we are made new. Amen.

### Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Matthew 3: 13-17 (Common English Version)

Meditation - Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

#### 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

## ***Communion***

***\*SONG "One Bread, One Body"***

**#393**

### ***Words of Institution***

Jesus gathered his disciples together on his last night. He made room at the table for those who loved him, those who questioned him, those who followed him, and for the one who would betray him. As witnesses to his teachings, his earthly struggles, and his prophetic justice shifting ministry, they came.

As they were eating, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, then gave it to them. In the same manner, following their meal, Jesus took the cup and blessed it and poured it out for each one of them and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant given for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins." "As often, then, as you eat this bread and drink this cup, do so in memory of me."

Come now, open to Peace within. All are welcome at Christ's table. We gather to renew our spirits with this sacred meal, and offer a place at the table for all.

(Sharing of Meal)

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion***

**Gracious and Eternal God, we share this meal as a symbol of Peace. In each of us, we find the beloved, the follower, the doubter, and the betrayer, and yet we know that we are welcome at this table. This meal is open to all, that it may offer sustenance as well as refuge. May we leave this table refreshed, ready to take your radical ministry of extravagant hope, everlasting peace, exuberant joy, and abundant love into the world. Amen.**















