

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING and DEDICATION

O Way-Making God, You are the source of every mercy and every new beginning, we give thanks for the gifts gathered here and for the hope you are stirring among us. As you lift burdens from weary shoulders and open paths we could not see before, shape these offerings into acts of healing, deeds of justice, and lives of shared joy. Bless the giving and the givers, that generosity may widen your way and strengthen the communities we touch. With gratitude for all you are doing in us and through us, we dedicate these gifts to the work of compassion you entrust to our care. Amen.

***SONG** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

#344

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

Make Glorious the Way: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany was written by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as the Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. 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 E:Mail: Uccclintonma@gmail.com

rev.marilyn.uccclintonma@gmail.com

The United Church of Clinton



January 25, 2026

Pastor, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musician, Kate Lyczkowski

Lay Reader, Paul Cole

Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Third Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING *of the BELL/TIME of CENTER*

*CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God—the dawn is breaking! A new day rises where sorrow had settled in.

People: The dawn is breaking—and we rise with it.

Leader: Where burdens have bent us low, the Holy One draws near, steadying our steps.

People: The Holy One draws near—and we gather our courage.

Leader: Where yokes have weighed on shoulders and spirits, God is loosening what has held us down.

People: What held us down is lifting—and we move toward freedom.

Leader: Come, all who yearn for justice; all who hope for healing; all who hunger for joy.

People: We come to the dawning way, we come to the hopeful way, we come to the way God makes glorious.

*SONG of PRAISE *and* SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE

“In Christ There is No East or West”

#687

*PRAYER *of the DAY*

Holy One, Your light dawns where your shadows are deepest. You are never far, your presence remains with us. Awaken us to the glimmers of your glory breaking into our world’s weariness. Shine upon the paths we walk—paths obstructed by fear, uncertainty, and the heavy burdens our communities carry. Yet, your compassion rises like morning light! Reveal in us the places where liberation is already taking root. As you drew near to Galilee’s borderlands, draw near us today. Let us behold your radiance in overlooked places and in one another. Make us ready, alert, and courageous—a people who move with your Spirit, who join your work of release, and who make glorious the way where your justice and joy can flourish. Descend upon us, Spirit of the Living God. Remain with us. Awaken us. And guide our worship into the brightness of your new day. 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 “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

#342

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 1-4 (Common English Version)

PRAYER *of* TRANSFORMATION *and* NEW LIFE

Holy Companion of our difficult days, you call us toward what is new even when we feel worn or uncertain. We confess the weight we carry—worries we rehearse, the fears we nurture, the habits that hold us tight, patterns we cling to, the moments we turn from compassion, the truths we avoid. Unbind what tightens around our hearts. Lift what has grown too heavy. Make room in us for generosity, justice, and the courage to begin again. Shape us for your healing work as this new day unfolds. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Matthew 4: 12-23 (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

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

