

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



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**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
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**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-0-lution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from January 21st, 2024*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

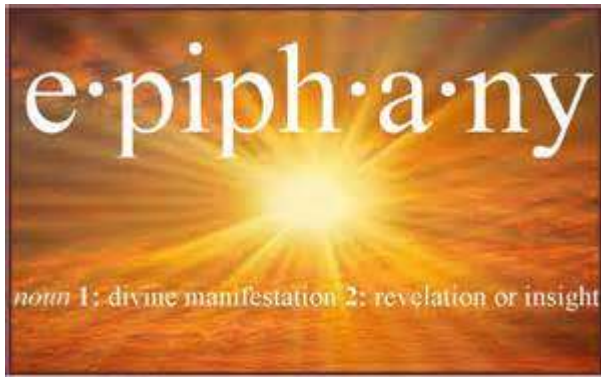
Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).



## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

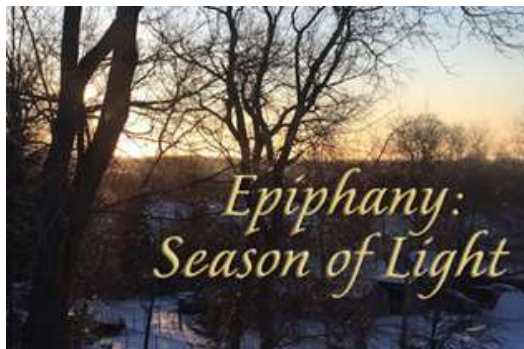


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
    - Westside Catholic Center
  - St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
    - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

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## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

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**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,



**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-0-lution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from January 21st, 2024*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

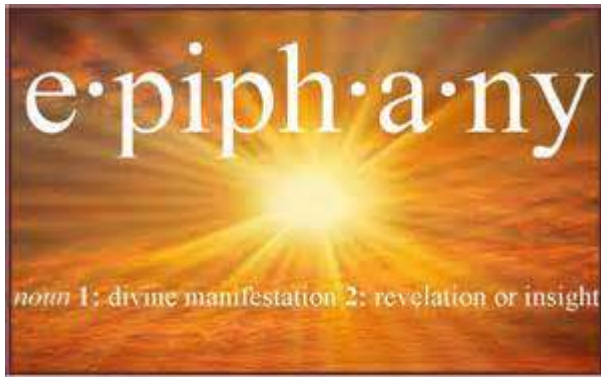
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

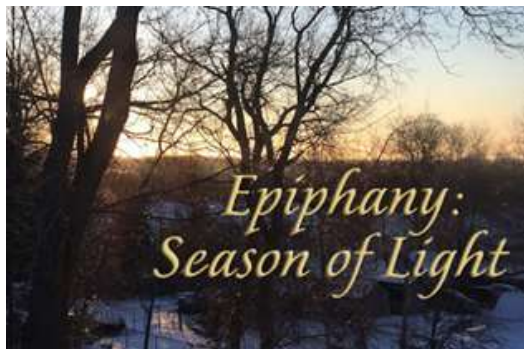
## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...



The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
  - Westside Catholic Center
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
  - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security



control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**



One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
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Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
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### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

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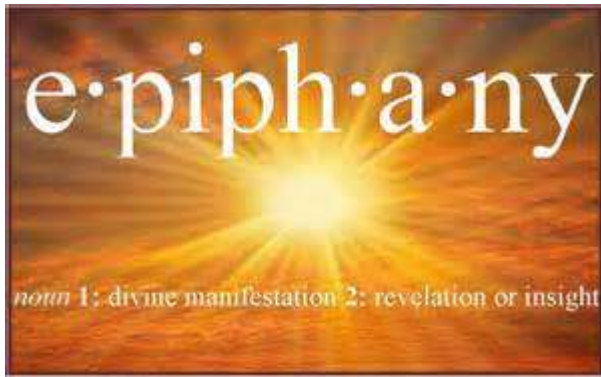
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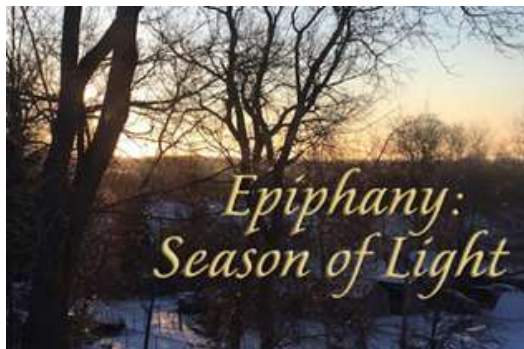
## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...



The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
  - Westside Catholic Center
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
  - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].





**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

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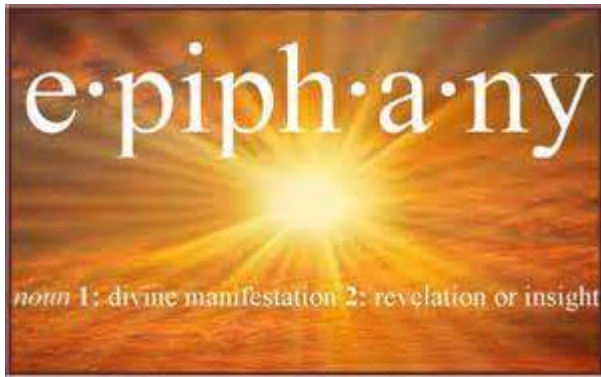
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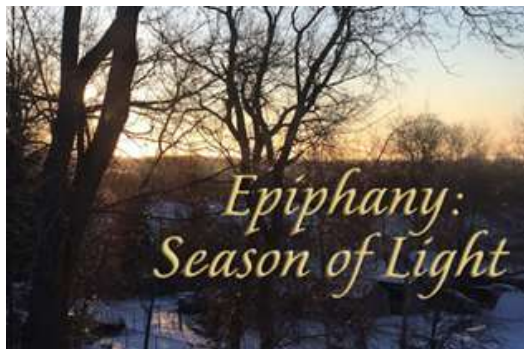


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Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

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In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
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## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
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- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*



**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-0-lution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from January 21st, 2024*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

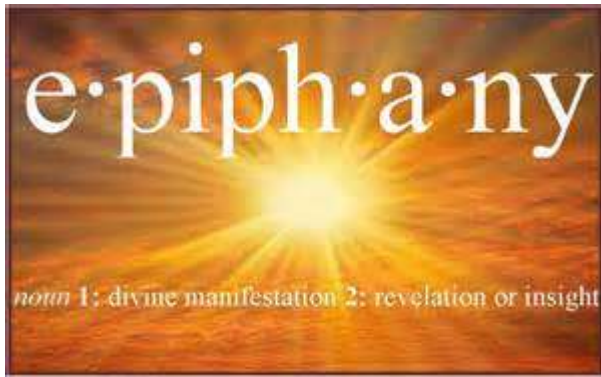
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

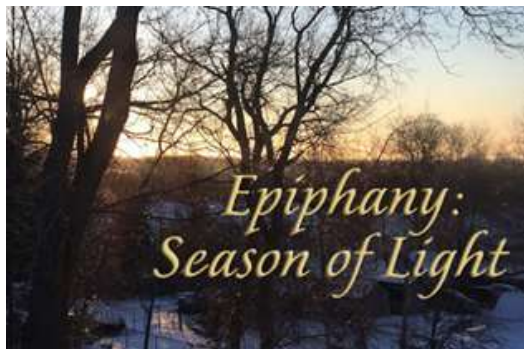


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

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- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
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- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-0-lution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from January 21st, 2024*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!



**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

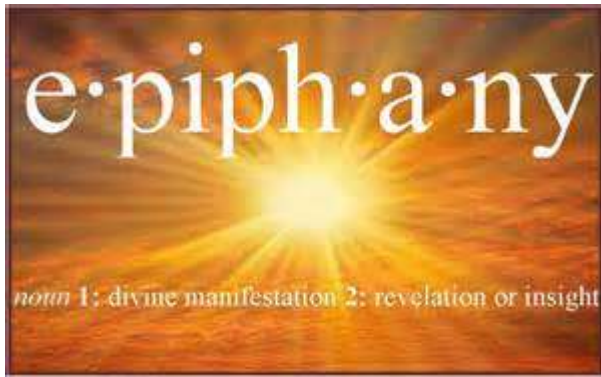
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

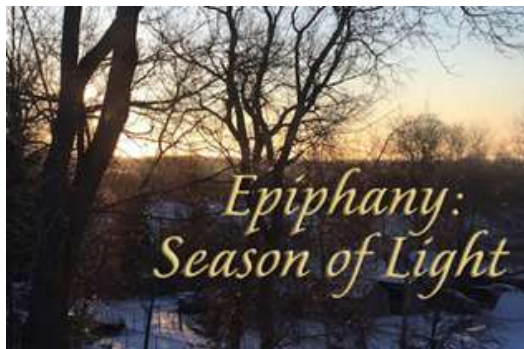


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
    - Westside Catholic Center
  - St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
    - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



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- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
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- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
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# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**



our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!"

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, "Follow me; I will make you fishers of people."

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – "The Time Is Now" - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ's name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – "Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult"**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator's abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-0-lution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from January 21st, 2024*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

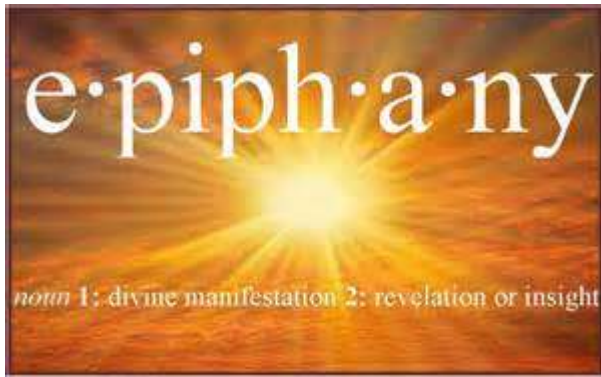
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

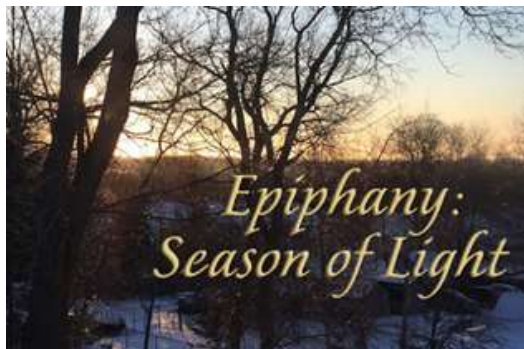


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
  - Westside Catholic Center
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
  - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras



## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

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Called by God to be.”  
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**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

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**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**



**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-olution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
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- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

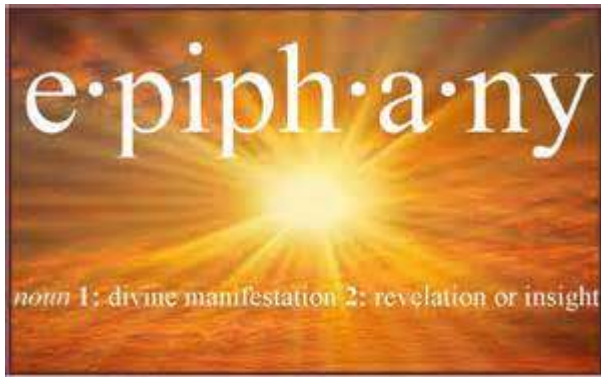
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

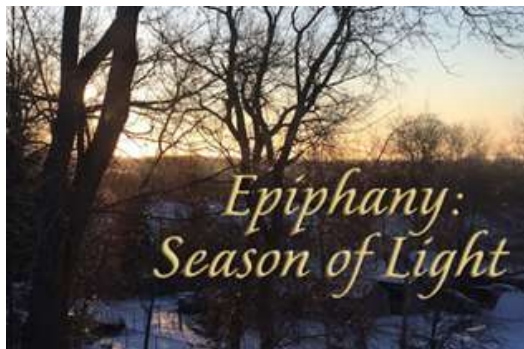


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
  - Westside Catholic Center
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
  - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335

2017 - 247

2016 - 383

2015 - 332

2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)



# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

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Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

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### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

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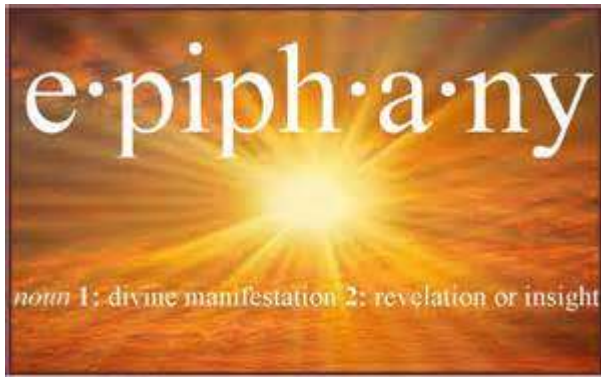
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## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

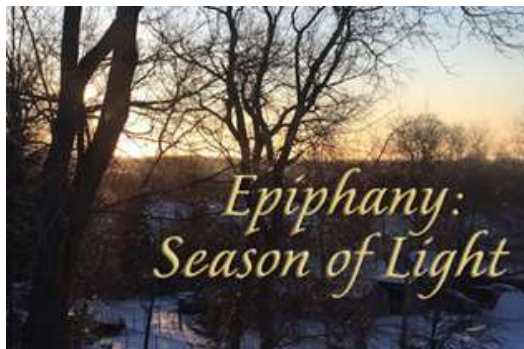


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
  - Westside Catholic Center
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
  - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,



**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-0-lution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from January 21st, 2024*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

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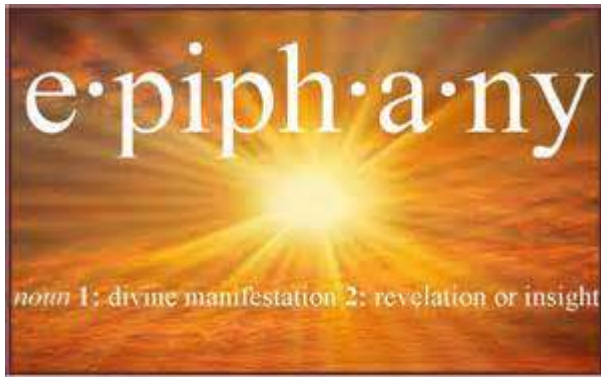
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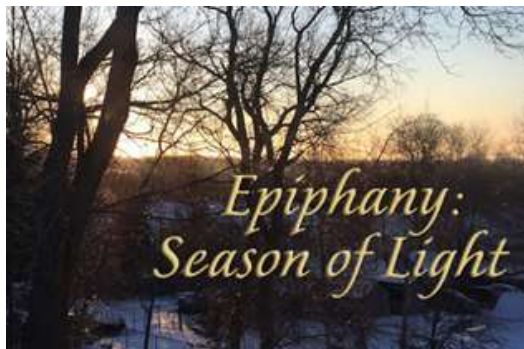


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Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

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## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
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## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
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- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
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- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security



control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – *Adam Petrosino***

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**



One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-0-lution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from January 21st, 2024*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

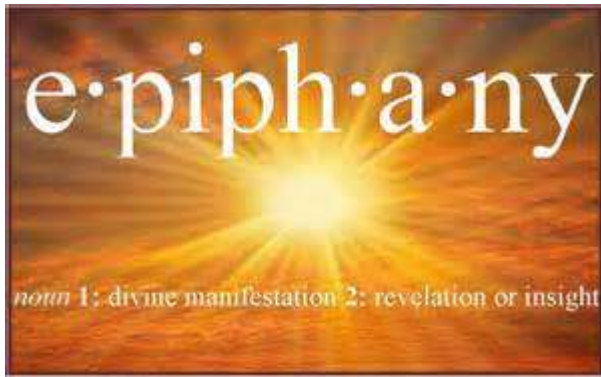
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

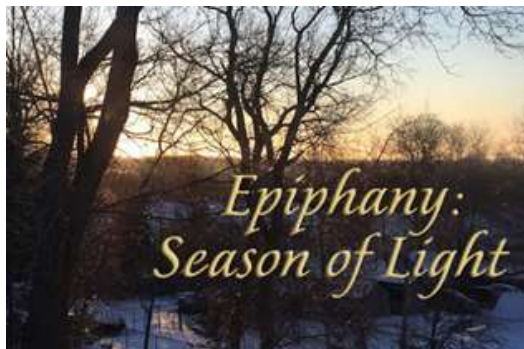


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

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in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
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- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
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- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
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- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
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- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



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# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

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**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
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**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-0-lution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from January 21st, 2024*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

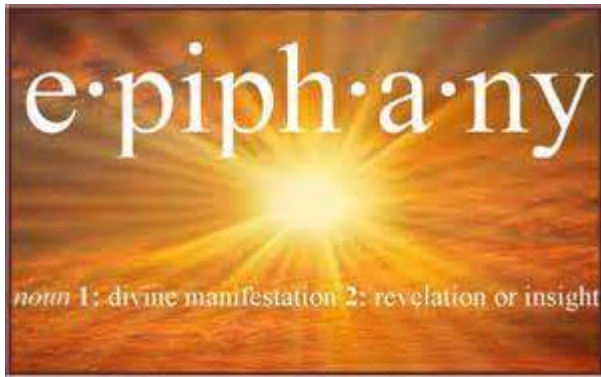
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

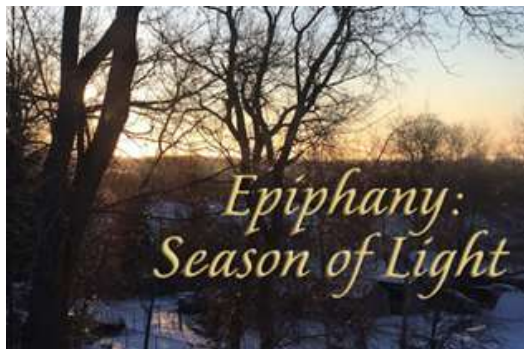


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.



Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
  - Westside Catholic Center
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
  - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

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- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
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- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

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January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

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Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – *Adam Petrosino***

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*



**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-0-lution*, <http://revo-lution.org>
- (3) Commissioning and Benediction are adapted from *Liturgy and Communion from January 21st, 2024*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (4) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, *All of Us*  
Scott Rosenstein, *Pastor*  
Adam Petrosino, *Music Director and Pianist*  
Keith Konet, *Council President*  
Beverly Wurm, *Administrative Assistant*



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

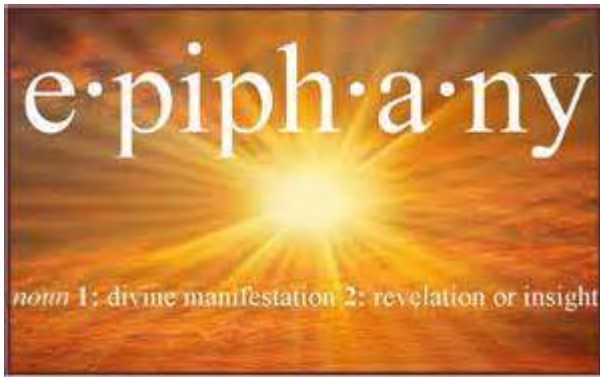
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

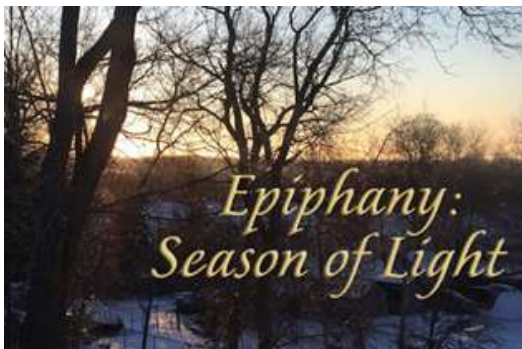


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup>, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
  - Westside Catholic Center
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
  - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or



treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – *Adam Petrosino***

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**

our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: **We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.**

**Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)**

\* \* \* \* \*

### Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, and the Blessing of the Gifts, are adapted from: *The waiting a service prayer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ. Baptism-of-Christ3B-January-21*
- (2) Prayer of Response- We respond-adapted from Sunday Worship Resources for January 21, 2024, written by Rev. Mindi Welton Mitchell, posted January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on her blog, Rev-0-lution,<http://revo-lution.org>
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**Ministers, All of Us**  
**Scott Rosenstein, Pastor**  
**Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist**  
**Keith Konet, Council President**  
**Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant**



### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **God is Still Speaking...**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!



**Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont** is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

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**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

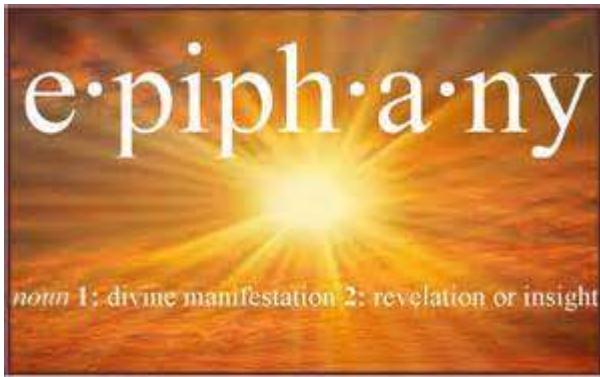
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

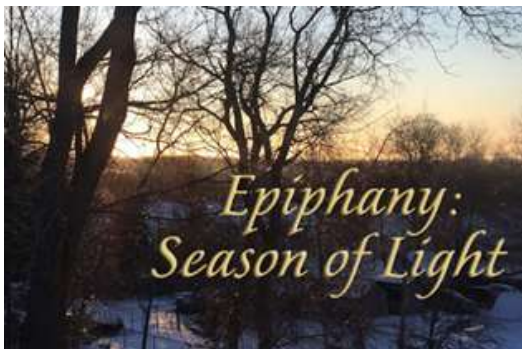


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
  - Westside Catholic Center
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
  - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras

## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

January 21st, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

A Service of the Word



## ***Calling Disciples***

*by Chinese artist, He Qi, 1999*

*currently a California resident (USA),*

*Artist-in-Residence at Fuller Theological Seminary (CA)*

*from Art in the Christian Tradition*

*a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=> [retrieved January 17, 2024].



**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**A Service of the Word**

**WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY**

“Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are, but also of becoming what we are not yet but are

Called by God to be.”  
--Os Guinness--

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude – *Adam Petrosino***

**\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**\* Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons,  
we enter into your presence  
with joy and thanksgiving.  
We acknowledge all the ways  
that you meet us  
as we gather in your name.  
May our songs and prayers  
be a sweet sound in your ears.  
May we demonstrate  
our trust in you  
through both praise and lament.  
May our hearts yearn,**



our spirits stir,  
and our souls wait  
in holy hope  
and expectation.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn – NCH 434 – “All Beautiful the March of Days”**

## **A READING OF THE WORD**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. Nineveh is notable in the Bible as the capital city of Assyria, a fearsome empire and a longtime enemy of Israel. Nineveh is located in what is now modern Iraq. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God’s ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed God’s mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was a very successful – but also very reluctant - prophet (and has some things to say about that in chapter 4).*

**3** 1 The word of YHWH came a second time to Jonah: 2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

3 Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of YHWH. Nineveh was a city large beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. 4 Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed!”

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

10 God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

**\*Psalm Response: Psalm 62:5-12 (Responsively)**

*These verses in Psalm 62 form is a contemplative psalm. The composer knows that God alone is their hope and salvation. The psalmist calls for all people to put their trust in God and not in wealth, for people of all economic standings come before God and wealth is not to be trusted. All power belongs to God, and God’s way is restoration: leveling out what is unequal and restoring what has been taken. The psalmist reminds us that God “repays” us according to the work we have done for God’s justice in this world.*

**62** 5 In God alone my soul finds rest,  
for my deliverance comes from God,

**6 who alone is my rock, my salvation, my fortress:  
I will never be shaken.**

7 Only in God—my deliverance, my glory—  
my refuge is God.

**8 Trust in God always, my people;  
pour out your hearts before God our refuge.**

9 Humanity is but a breath,  
mortals are just an illusion. Put them on the scales and the balance is thrown off:  
they weigh less than a breath.

**10 Do not trust in extortion,  
or put false hopes in stolen goods;  
do not set your heart on riches  
even when they increase.**

11 For God has said only one thing,  
only two do I know:  
that to God alone belongs power,

**12 and that you, God, are loving—  
you repay all people according to their deeds.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*The Epistle readings in this season after Epiphany follow the letters to the Corinthians. In these verses in 1 Corinthians 7, the apostle Paul believed that the return of Christ was imminent. Paul saw the reign of heaven as one we ought to live into now: for in heaven, as Christ taught, there is no marriage, there are no possessions, and there is no more mourning. Paul believed the world we have known was passing and we ought to live in the reign of God here on earth.*

**7** 29 I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. 30 Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, 31 and those who have to deal with the world should live as if all their dealings meant nothing—for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20**

*The Gospel lesson of Mark 1 contains the beginning of Jesus' ministry. After Jesus' baptism and John the baptizer's arrest, Jesus took up the same sermon message: "The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds (repent), and believe this Good News!" As Jesus ministered along the Sea of Galilee, he called his first disciples, those who fished by trade, to follow him and fish for people. Two sets of brothers: Simon and Andrew, and James and John, were among the first. James and John even left their father Zebedee in the boat along with those Zebedee hired to help him with his fishing business, to follow Jesus.*

**1** 14 After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

16 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me; I will make you fishers of people.”

18 They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

19 Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired helpers, and went off in the company of Jesus.

**Reflection – “The Time Is Now” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein**

## **WE RESPOND**

### **\*Prayer of Response**

**Holy Divine, we ask for your aid in turning from the violence of this world.**

**The violence that separates us from one another.**

**The violence that dehumanizes, diminishes, ignores and marginalizes human beings.**

**The violence that silences, squashes, oppresses, and denies the voices of our neighbors, our kin.**

**The violence that afflicts our hearts with jealousy, rage, and hatred.**

**Holy Divine, overpower the violence of the world by transforming our hearts with empathy, kindness, compassion, and most of all, love.**

**Call us into the way and life of Christ. It is not enough for us to follow Christ; remind us that we are called to be transformed by Christ, to be a new creation in this world.**

**In Christ’s name we pray in anticipation, knowing that we are being transformed into the living hope this world needs. Amen.**

**\*Hymn – NCH 172 – “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”**

### **Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator’s abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**The Offertory – Adam Petrosino**

**\*Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Blessing of the Gifts**

Eternal God,  
magnify these gifts  
that we return in gratitude  
and for your glory.  
Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.  
Amen.

**GOING FORTH**

**\*Parting Hymn - NCH 495 – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

One: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**Many: We will place hope in the arms of others.**

One: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

One: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

Many: We will bring others near to the realm where all are welcome. Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

\* \* \* \* \*

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**Tithes and Offerings** - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ  
c/o Keith Konet  
1039 Bridlewood Drive  
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

### **Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist**

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont, Cleveland, Ohio. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and musical gifts with us.

Adam can be reached by e-mail at [A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com](mailto:A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com) and by phone at 234-205-9397.

### **Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm**

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14<sup>th</sup>)/home. The days and hours are:

#### **Winter Schedule:**

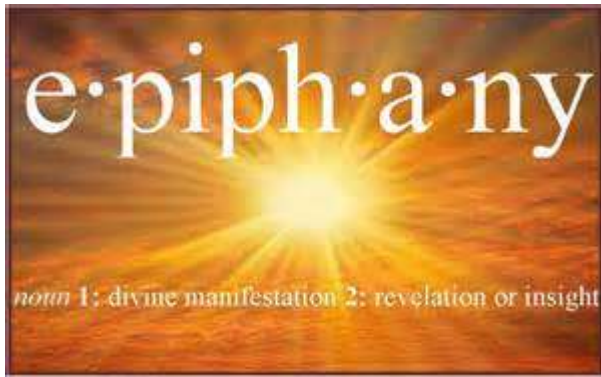
Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: [zionchurchtremont@gmail.com](mailto:zionchurchtremont@gmail.com) or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile).

## The Festival of Epiphany and the season that follows...

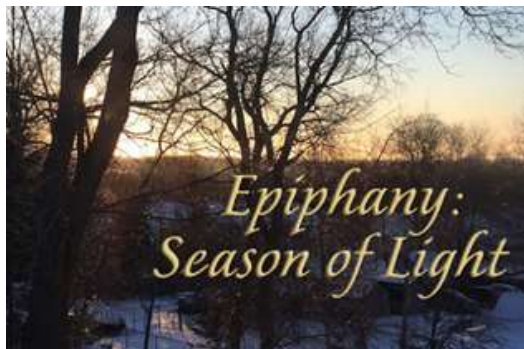


The Festival of Epiphany is not only marked by a single historical event but also by a series of events tied together by a theme. "Epiphany" means "revelation" or "new understanding," and the biblical stories associated with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common "aha" quality.

The passages include the epiphany of the Magi who come to know the significance of the Messiah's birth, the epiphany of Jesus who embraces his baptism and

his life's unique identity and mission, the epiphany of John the Baptizer who identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God, and the epiphany of the first disciples who leave behind the familiar to explore the radically new. These are all significant personal events of powerful discovery, self-realization, and transformation.

The United Church of Christ, along with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church, celebrates on the day of Epiphany, January 6th, (or the Sunday closest) the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the Magi who come to worship Jesus. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6<sup>th</sup> until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord. The length of the season of Epiphany varies and is determined by working backwards through the season of Lent from the moveable date for the celebration of Easter.



Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white (a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany), used the first week after the Epiphany when the Baptism of Christ/Baptism of our Lord is celebrated, and the last week of the season of Epiphany when the Transfiguration of

Christ/our Lord is celebrated; and green, reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth. Green is used in the season of Epiphany beginning with the second week after the Epiphany until the week before the Transfiguration of Christ/Transfiguration of our Lord is celebrated. These churches use the terms "Time after Epiphany" to describe this period. The expression with "after" has been interpreted as making the period in question correspond to that of Ordinary Time.\*\*

\*\*Ordinary Time refers to two periods of time in the Christian liturgical year that are found in the calendar of the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, as well as some other churches of Western Christianity, including the Anglican Communion, Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Old Catholic churches and Reformed churches. In Latin, the name of this time is *Tempus per annum* translated as time during the year.

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Roman Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent.

In some traditions, the first period is celebrated as the Season after Epiphany, and the latter of these periods is observed as the Season after Pentecost. Both of these periods of time, combined, are the longest time in the liturgical year. The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. Several Sundays bear the name of feasts or solemnities celebrated on those days, including Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King/Reign of Christ. The liturgical color normally assigned to Ordinary Time is green.\*\*

## **Tremont-Duck Island-Irishtown Bend Holiday Food Drive 2023-2024 Campaign ran November 15<sup>th</sup> through January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**lending a helping hand to neighbors - families and children - in need  
in Tremont, Duck Island, and Irishtown Bend  
and providing help to the 12 local Cleveland food pantries - ministries.**

**In the 2 Rounds - 562 canned goods/paper products were collected along with \$23,560 in cash  
& checks, which is sent to 12 local food pantries and hunger centers**

**Round 2- ran through January 16th, 2024 - to re-stock the food pantries following the holidays.**

**Total Collected as of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 - \$23,560  
94 % of the Goal in Cash/Checks for this food drive of \$25,000**

### **Food Pantries – Hunger Center Ministries:**

- Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry
  - Pilgrim Church Food Pantry
- St. Augustine Hunger Center hot meals program
  - St. Malachi Church Back Door Ministry
  - The Greater Cleveland Food Bank
  - Westside Catholic Center
- St. Augustine Parish food pantry services
- Iglesia Nueva Vida Food Pantry - Comedor comunitario
  - Mega Church Resource Center Food Pantry
  - Hunger Action Network of Greater Cleveland
  - Scranton Road Bible Church Food Pantry
- St. Michael the Archangel Food Pantry - Reparto de Compras



## Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For children separated from their parents at detention camps along our southern border.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the United States.



An armed conflict between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups has been taking place chiefly in and around the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, with clashes also taking place in the West Bank and on the Israel–Lebanon border. On that day, militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, marking the start of the most significant military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War exactly fifty years prior. After clearing Hamas militants from its territory, the Israeli military embarked on an extensive aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip followed by a large-scale ground invasion. The current hostilities constitute the fifth war of the Gaza–Israel conflict, which is part of the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict and Iran–Israel proxy conflict.

The war began when Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups targeted Israel in an operation they called "Al-Aqsa Flood" with a barrage of rockets, while around 3,000 militants breached the Gaza–Israel barrier and attacked neighboring Israeli communities and military bases. 1,139 people—695 Israeli civilians, 373 soldiers and 71 foreigner nationals —were killed, including an unknown number from friendly fire. Hamas said its attack was in response to "desecration" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and recent violence and clashes there, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the plight of Palestinian refugees and prisoners, the latter of whom it sought to free by taking an estimated 250 Israeli and foreign nationals as captives into Gaza as leverage. In response, Israel tightened its blockade, ordered the evacuation of the northern Gaza Strip, and fired over 29,000 munitions at targets in Gaza before and during its ground offensive, with the stated goal of dismantling Hamas's "military and governance capabilities", freeing the hostages, and establishing security

control over Gaza. Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, a majority of them civilians, and thousands more are considered missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. The scale, extent, and pace of this destruction ranks among the most severe in the history of modern warfare. A severe humanitarian crisis has resulted, with the most hospitals out of service, shortages of food and medicine, communications blackouts, and people forced to drink contaminated water. It was widely reported that there was "no safe place in Gaza" as Israel struck areas which it had previously suggested were safer. Israel contends that Hamas, operating in tunnels dug beneath Gaza, uses the civilian population as human shields and diverts humanitarian supplies for military purposes. The widespread civilian deaths have led to both Israel and Hamas being accused of war crimes. Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million population and around 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced, while thousands of Palestinians have been detained by Israel.

- On January 1 2024, an earthquake of magnitude 7.6 on the Richter scale on the Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, caused an intensity 7 (JMA) in Shiga Town, and intensity 6+ and 6- in many municipalities in the Noto Peninsula. Also, a tsunami of almost 4' was observed. There have been numerous aftershocks. The earthquake caused many deaths, injuries, collapsed houses, spreading fires and landslides.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 14 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:**

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646  
2021 - 689  
2020 - 610  
2019 - 414  
2018 - 335  
2017 - 247  
2016 - 383  
2015 - 332  
2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or

treatments.

- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
- Patti Augustine (*health concerns*) and family. Patti's brother Dave is recovering from recent open-heart surgery.
- Robert O. Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing at Mapleridge Senior Living Willoughby, OH. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
- Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob – health concerns*)
- Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, Barbara Reed, Nancy Moore's sister has passed away and prayer for Nancy's neighbor for healing.
- Jocelyn Paulette and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui Konet - prayers for recovery.
- Keith Konet and family.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*).
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein (*recovering from coronary care procedures*)
- Barbara Rossington (*Prayers for Barb - & Prayers for Barb's cousin, Robert*)
- Debbie Webb (*continued prayers*)
- Beverly Wurm (*prayers for family*)