

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

A Service of the Word

JANUARY 22, 2023



LORDSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH
a member of the United Church of Christ
est. 1922

Welcome to the Lordship Community Church, United Church of Christ!

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, God welcomes you!

Welcome to worship at the Lordship Community Church! You are welcome here. No matter what. We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God's kingdom. We don't all look or act alike; God knows we don't all think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We come from different religious backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we gather and worship God together as one.

In our church, we believe worship is important, yet we aren't afraid of having fun while worshipping. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We gather around the waters of grace and the table of Christ, just as Christians have for nearly two thousand years. Some of the songs we sing are ones our grandparents might also have sung in their day. And, in our preaching and prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

As we continue to navigate living and worshipping in a pandemic, we will keep our health & safety guidelines updated and posted at <http://thelordshipchurch.org/covid/>.

If you are a guest with us today, we invite you to fill out our digital welcome card by visiting <http://thelordshipchurch.org/connect>. We'd also love to stay connected with you this week. The easiest way to do that is by following us on social media. Simply scan this QR code and you can connect with us on all our channels from there. We love hearing from you and this is a great way to keep up the conversation:



Thank you for worshipping with us this week!

Pastor Jeff

The language of worship is rich and diverse, and yet always inadequate to express the fullness of the divine. In our worship life, we strive to use inclusive language for humanity and expansive imagery for the divine, while respecting the poetry and imagery of texts handed down to us from the ages. Honoring our diversity, in those places where we speak or sing together, worshipers may use language with which they are comfortable or familiar.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion: *All* are welcome, including children, to share in the feast at Christ's table. Currently, we celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month and on certain other holy days.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism: We gladly offer the sign and seal of God's grace in the waters of baptism, both to children and adults of any age. For more information, contact the pastor.

Claim Your Life

God has called you, not just by name, but also to a special purpose. When you find and claim your own vocation - that which fulfills you and creates good in the world - you are freed from the bonds of what others may expect of you or claim for you. What are you being called towards?

*As you are able, whether in body or spirit, **please rise** for those parts marked with an asterisk * After checking in on social media, please remember to **silence mobile phones** and other devices, and be mindful of those who wish to use the prelude as a time of prayer, meditation and preparation for worship.*

GATHERING

God gathers us in and invites us to experience the holy.

Prelude – “O God, Thou Faithful God,” by Johann Gottfried Walther *Susan Bryn Kapec*

Words of Gathering & Centering

The Rev. Jeff Lukens

***Sung Response** – “God Welcomes All,” by John Bell

Sung in unison.

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.*

***Call to Worship**

Hans Drenkard, Liturgist

One: The Lord is our Light and our Salvation!

***Many:* Why should we be afraid?**

One: We ask one thing from God – it’s all we seek:

***Many:* to live in God’s house our whole lives;**

One: to see God’s beautiful creation all around us;

***Many:* to shelter with the Lord in times of trouble.**

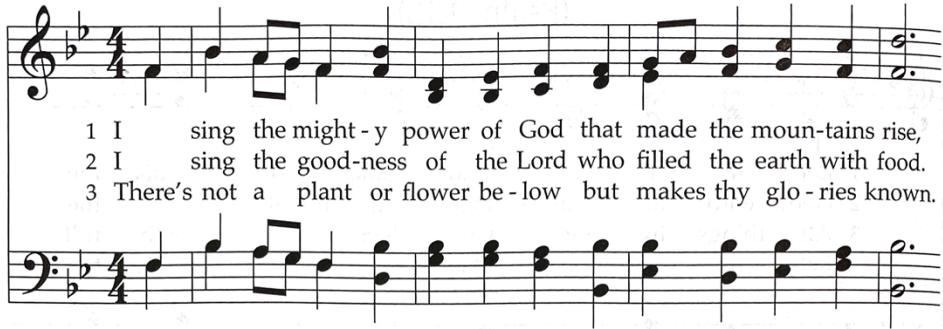
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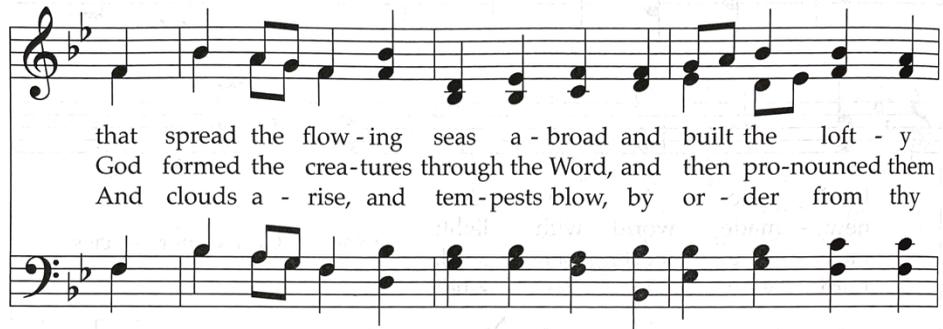
***Hymn** – “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Glory to God Hymnal, no. 32

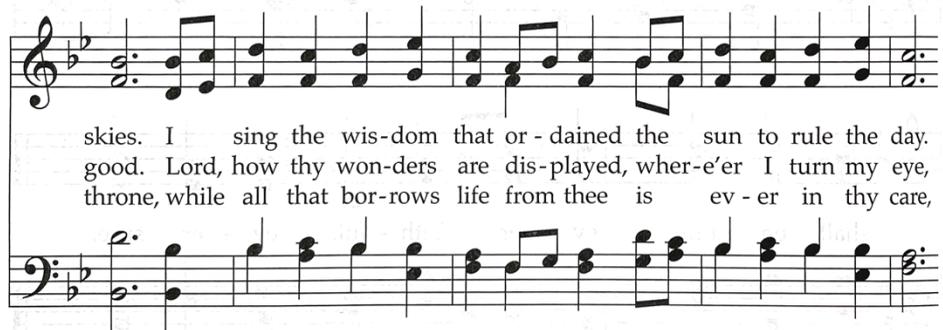
32 I Sing the Mighty Power of God



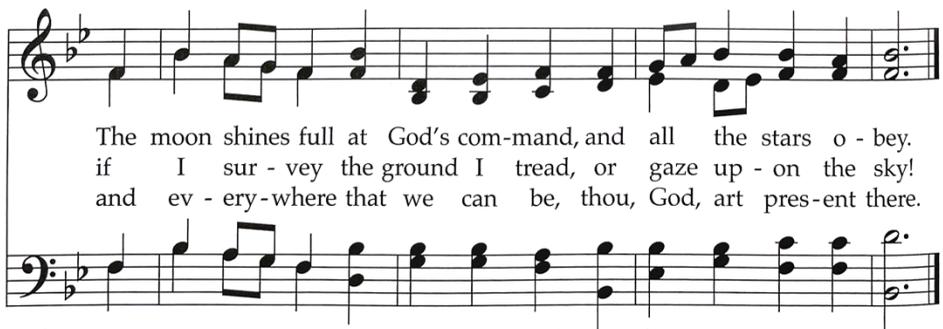
1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.



that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy



skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

Opening Prayer of Invocation

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and music.

A Message for All Ages

The First Reading – Psalm 27.1, 4-9 (NRSVUE)

*The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?*

*One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:*

*to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.*

*For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.*

*Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.*

*Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.*

*Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!*

The Gospel Reading – Matthew 4.12-23 (NRSVUE)

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

*“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”*

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

***Hymn** – “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

Glory to God Hymnal, no. 721

721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Tú has venido a la orilla



1 Lord, you have come to the lake - shore look - ing
2 You know so well my pos - ses - sions; my boat
3 You need my hands, full of car - ing, through my
4 You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans, ev - er



nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones; you on - ly
car - ries no gold and no weap - ons; 7 you will
la - bors to give oth - ers rest and con - stant
longed for by souls who are wait - ing, my lov - ing



asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
find there my nets and la - bor.
love that keeps on lov - ing.
friend, as thus you call me:

Refrain / Estribillo

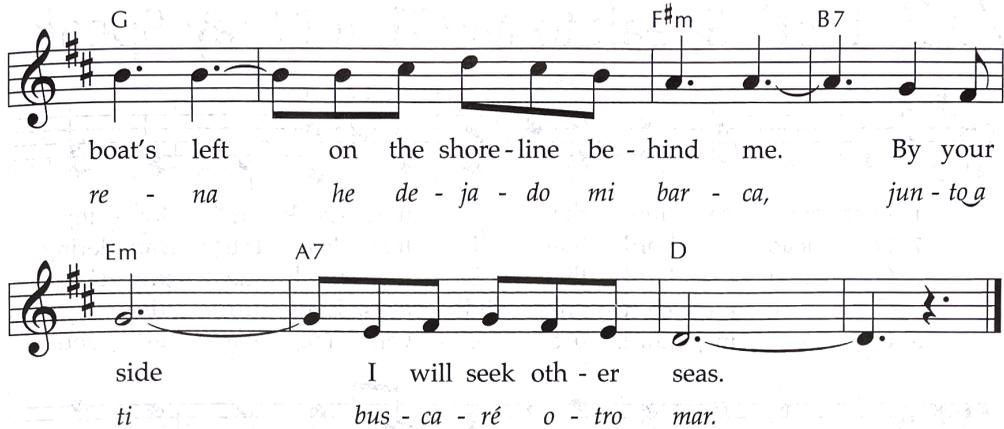


O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while
Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos, son - ri -



smil - ing have spo - ken my name; now my
en - do has di - cho mi nom - bre, en la a -





boat's left on the shore-line be-hind me. By your
 re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca, jun - to a

side I will seek oth - er seas.
 ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.

Sermon

The Rev. Jeff Lukens

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

We begin our life of responding to the gospel through prayer and offering.

Invitation to Connection & Community

If you are with us for the first time, I invite you to fill out our connection card so we can stay in touch with you all week. You can do this by scanning the QR code below and clicking the "Get Connected" button. You can also scan the code and connect with us on all our social media channels.

We have several ways you can give right now. You can give online at: <https://thelordshipchurch.org/donate> (or scan the QR code below). You may also text an amount to 475-800-8860. Or you can mail a check to the church. Whichever way you choose to give and bless our community, we thank you!



GENEROSITY PRAYER (based on 1 Timothy 6)

Many: Godliness with contentment is great gain.

We bring nothing into this world and we take nothing out of it.

We who call Jesus Lord, devote ourselves to resisting greed,

which plunges the human heart into ruin and pierces it with many griefs.

We are determined to practice generosity with free hearts,
fixing our hope on God and not the uncertainty of wealth.
We desire to be rich in good deeds,
willing to share all that we have,
laying up for ourselves treasure that will not decay,
but will shine in the age to come. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY

Chalice Hymnal, no. 46

Sung in unison.

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

Praying for Ourselves, Our Community, and Our World

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Many: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

If you have prayer requests you wish to share with Pastor Jeff, you can email them to him at pastor@thelordshipchurch.org or text them to 203.212.8811. If you wish to share prayer requests with the whole congregation, you may post those in our private Facebook group – <http://www.facebook.com/groups/lordshipchurch>.

SENDING FORTH

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world.

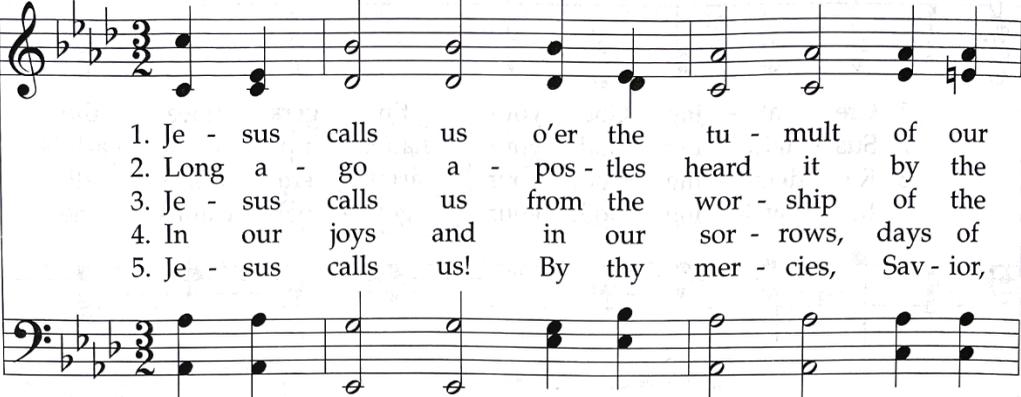
*Hymn – “Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”

*Chalice Hymnal, no. 337
see next page*

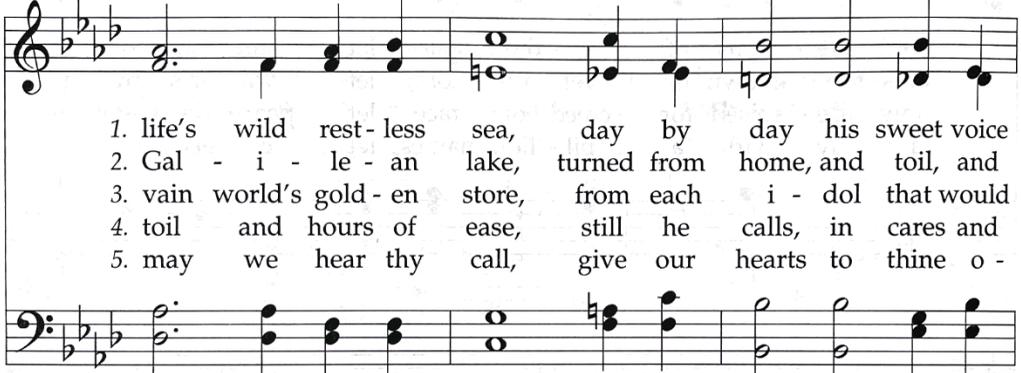
*Benediction & Blessing

Postlude – “Deal With Me God, According to Your Kindness,” by Johann Gottfried Walther

Susan Bryn Kapec



1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
 2. Long a - go a - pos - tles heard it by the
 3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5. Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



1. life's wild rest - less sea, day by day his sweet voice
 2. Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home, and toil, and
 3. vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 4. toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 5. may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine o -



1. sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me";
 2. kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
 3. keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 4. plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 5. be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUPER BOWL SUBS – order from LCC!

Lordship Community Church is preparing and selling SUPER BOWL SUBS (grinders)! **Pre-order your sub(s) by Friday, February 10!** The subs will be prepared in the church kitchen and will be available for pick up after church on Sunday, February 12, between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. The cost is \$12 for a sub of your choice – choose between ham & cheese, turkey & cheese, roast beef & cheese, or the combo (ham, turkey, roast beef & cheese) - & comes with water, and a bag of chips. To order online, please visit: <https://thelordshipchurch.org/store>. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Orders can be submitted by email, mail, or phone to the church office (office@thelordshipchurch.org, 203-377-6568). Checks should be made payable to Lordship Community Church. A perfect idea especially if you plan to watch the game from home or to treat family members and neighbors who will be watching in the comfort of their home. **Also, LCC seeks monetary/check donations** (with a note referencing Super Bowl Subs) **and supermarket (Stop & Shop, ShopRite) gift card donations** toward purchasing the cold cuts, grinder rolls, and individual bags of chips. These donations can be submitted to the church office, or given directly to Sally Green, Mary Barbierrri, or Debbie Cronk, **by Friday, February 10, 2023**. Thank you and enjoy your sub and the game!

JANUARY 2023 STEEPLE LIGHTING - In loving memory of Pete Apatow in remembrance of his January birthday from Stephen, Aimee & Austin Apatow.

READERS and GREETERS and COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS (Hans Drenkard)

***Readers are needed for March 12, 2023 and on.**

****Greeters are needed for February 12, 2023 and on.**

*****Coffee Hour Volunteers are needed for February 26, 2023 and various future dates.**

We would love you to help with Sunday worship by being a lay reader or greeter or coffee hour volunteer. Please click on the link below to enter your name to fill one of the vacancies on the list. Thank you very much!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BhiU9fstK2kesytQbmDj4fGn438uX3F1KXYiDtEnY_w/edit

2023 Annual Meeting

The 101st Annual Meeting of Lordship Community Church is planned for Sunday, February 5, 2023, following worship.

Pastor-Parish committee – chair – Hans Drenkard, thsphys@optonline.net. Congregants can contact Hans if they have any issues that they would like brought to Pastor Jeff's attention.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes – after approval of the Executive Board, the minutes of the monthly Executive Board meeting will be made available to the congregation upon request.

Worship Notes

- Worship series theme inspired by an idea from the Worship Design Studio and used as a part of our subscription. © 2023 www.worshipdesignstudio.com.
- Opening Prayer written by Richard Fairchild and found at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/01/opening-prayer-for-epiphany.html>.
- All other liturgy written by the Rev. Jeff Lukens.
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The Lordship Community Church is an open and welcoming community of spiritual seekers, committed to growing in Christian discipleship as we worship, study, and serve together. Our vision is to be a church reaching out to the community, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and nurturing the faith of the next generation.

LORDSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

179 Prospect Drive, Stratford, CT 06615 | 203.377.6568
www.thelordshipchurch.org | facebook.com/lordshipchurch

<i>Ministers</i>	All of the Congregation
<i>Pastor</i>	The Rev. Jeff Lukens – pastor@thelordshipchurch.org – c. 203.212.8811
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Susan Bryn Kapec
<i>Minister of Digital Media</i>	Brandon Woods – media@thelordshipchurch.org
<i>Church Administrator</i>	Sandra Iannotti – office@thelordshipchurch.org

