

Central United Methodist Church



The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 17, 2021
10:45 am

Our Vision:

***Making Christ known by extending hospitality,
serving the community, and embracing all.***

201 - 3rd Avenue Knoxville TN 37917

www.knoxcentralumc.org

We Gather to Praise God

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| Gathering Music | Adoration | Price |
| Prelude | I Am Thine, O Lord | arr: Riley |
| Welcome | | Rev. Jimmy Sherrod |
| Opening Prayer | | |
| Call to Worship | | |
| The world says: Stand tall, run fast, and do not stumble. | | |
| Jesus says: Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. | | |
| The world says: Independence is the goal. | | |
| God says: It is not good for humans to be alone. | | |
| The world says: Look out for number one. | | |
| Jesus says: Love your neighbor as yourself. | | |
| The world says: It is what it is. | | |
| God says: I am doing a new thing. Do you not perceive it? | | |
| Open our eyes, God. We want to see Jesus. Alleluia! | | |
| Opening Hymn | Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing | UMH 400 |

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take a seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

We Listen to Hear God's Voice

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|-----------|-------------------|
| Scripture | Matthew 5:38-48 |
| Song | Season of Promise |

Prayer of Illumination

Open our ears, O God, that we might hear your Word speaking to us in this moment. Open our ears, O God, that we might listen for your voice calling to us through scripture. Open our ears, O God, that we might understand your promises to followers both old and young, ancient and modern. Open our hearts, O God, that we might enter into the love you offer us. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Sherrod

We Respond to God's Great Love

Song

Love Changes Everything
Jacquie Breechen and George Hayden

Arr. Lojeski

Prayer of Confession (adapted from the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Love is the only force that can change an enemy into a friend. Humans must meet human conflict with a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love. Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies or else? The chain reaction of evil-hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars, must be broken, or else we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

When we treat our faith as nothing more than a self-help system and You, God, as simply a cure for whatever ails us,

Where is the love?

When we use the gifts our planet gives us with little care for our wastefulness and destruction,

Where is the love?

When we deny and disdain truths and practices that others hold dear,

Where is the love?

When we ignore the sickness, the loneliness, struggle and the vulnerability of others, because it doesn't affect us,

Where is the love?

When we berate ourselves for our failures, or hold ourselves to impossible and trivial standards,

Where is the love? Forgive us, Lord, and teach us and our world what it really means to love.

Offering Our Gifts

Where 'Er He Leadeth Me
George Hayden, soloist

We Are Scattered to Serve God In Our World

*Closing Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O Bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Benediction

Postlude

Lift Every Voice and Sing

R. Johnson & J. Johnson

The flowers today are given by Mary Baugues, in memory of John and in honor of their 23rd wedding anniversary.

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Alan Cheatham is recovering from January 14 surgery on the retina of his right eye.

Gary Sherlin remains in hospice care. Cards are welcome (2815 Oakleigh Township Dr, 37921), or you may check with Jack Poore.

Nick Corrigan (Dean of Students, Oak Ridge City Schools) has been called up with his National Guard unit for duty during the Inauguration. His friends have asked for prayers.

Hannah and Haylee Hotchkiss (premature daughters of Penney Helm's cousin Amy Hotchkiss) remain in the NICU. Hannah is doing well and just needs to gain weight. Haylee remains on a ventilator.

Kathy Whaley (sister of Penney Helm's friend) has a spot on each lung that is being investigated. She has a history of cancer.

For the upcoming inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. For the political and social unrest throughout the country. For those who are serving and protecting in Washington, DC and across the country.

COVID-19 related prayers

Mike Petit (Beth Stiver's brother), was released from the hospital

Nesta Reseigh (Bill Reseigh's 99-year old mother) recovering from COVID.

Ted Johnson (Doug Johnson's brother) has bilateral pneumonia and COVID-19. He is currently being treated at home.

Dot Free (95-year old mother of Bill and Marjorie Rose's neighbor, Beth Vanfossen) is being treated for COVID-19.

Lynn Fox (father of Sue Renfro's friend Jordan Fox) remains on a ventilator at with COVID-19 affecting both lungs.

All health care and other frontline workers who care for those with COVID-19 and those working to provide vaccine and treatments.

Please continue to remember **Dick Bales** (friend of Carolyn Cottrell), **Clara Hagaman (1412 Tipton Station Rd, 37920)**, **Sancy Hail (7545 Thunder Ct, Powell, 37849)**, **Bobbie Jones (friend of Carolyn Cottrell)**, **Allen Knable (4371 Lifespring Ln, Room 303, 37918)**, **Barbara Marks (1315 Snowdon Dr., 37912)**, **Richard Moon (7655 April Cross, Corryton, 37721)**, **Doris Jean Moore (7404 Kentfield Dr, 37919)**, and **Billy Varnell (4121 Riverstone Ln, 37918)**.