

# CHRIST

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Sixth Sunday After Epiphany**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

**February 16, 2025**

10:30am Worship Service

### THE GATHERING

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sandy Foster

**PRELUDE**

**INTROIT**

*Celebrate Love*

TFWS 2073 v. 2

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

**Leader:** Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

**People:** **May we learn to depend on God's abundant provision instead of the world's grasping for wealth as we worship today.**

**Leader:** Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled."

**People:** **May we learn to follow Christ's call to provide for the hungry as co-creators of God's kingdom as we worship today.**

**Leader:** Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

**People:** **May we learn to pay attention to those who suffer and mourn and to extend God's comfort and hope to those who need it as we worship today.**

**Leader:** Jesus declared, "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man."

**People:** **May our worship teach us to rejoice in that day and every day as we live out the good news in our families, neighborhoods, community, and world!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Marching to Zion*

UMH 733

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/where-you-are-far-horizons/sixth-sunday-after-the-epiphany-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/sixth-sunday-after-the-epiphany-year-c-liturgical-resources>

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION<sup>2</sup>

Compassionate God, we recognize that our world is a broken place, hurt by poverty, famine, and disease. We admit that sometimes we make the world a broken place, tolerating prejudice, conflict, and self-interest. We confess that our hearts also suffer with anger, resentment, and jealousy. Renew us in Your love, O God, and heal us with the comfort of Your abundant love. Awaken us to the role we can play in healing Your creation. Strengthen us through the power of the Holy Spirit to hear Your word and move forward in faith. Amen.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC                      *Stand by Me*                      L. Shackley/C.A. Tinley  
Karyn Murphy, soloist

## CHILDREN'S HAPPENING

SCRIPTURE READINGS                      Jeremiah 17:5-10                      Pew Bible 628  
Psalm 1                      UMH 738  
\*Luke 6:17-26                      Pew Bible 838

God is still speaking. **And we are still listening. Thanks be to God!**

\*GLORIA PATRI                      *Glory Be to the Father*                      UMH 71

SERMON                      *On the Level*                      Pastor Dianne Tobey Covault

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION                      *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*                      UMH 402

## CALL TO THE OFFERING<sup>3</sup>

### OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY                      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*                      UMH 94

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy One, bless and multiply these gifts we give as tokens of our trust in you. Use them to bless the poor, feed the hungry, and comfort those who weep; in Jesus' name. Amen.

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Blessed are those who trust in the Lord

People: **Whose trust is in the Lord**

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<sup>2</sup> Written by Gill Le Fevre. Posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2019/02/opening-prayer-luke-6-17-26.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Offering sequence reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2013

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

PRAYER RESPONSE

*Make Us One*

TFWS 2224

\*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

*Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

UMH 66

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *As a Fire is Meant for Burning*

TFWS 2237 v. 2

\*POSTLUDE

## CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

*Non-weekly meetings and activities are in bold print.*

- SUN (02/16):** Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am  
**Church Council, 11:45a/Emma Lang Lounge**
- TUE (02/18):** Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- SAT (02/22):** **Community Meal, 5:00pm/Jump Fellowship Hall**
- SUN (02/23):** Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am

## *We Are All God's Children*

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*\* denotes member*

*Bobby Blankenship	Carol	Frank	Lindsey Parker
*Monta Demchak	Caroline	Gail	Lynn Parker
*Dave Dickman	Chris M.	Geof Funk	Mary
*Cindy Light	Darlene	J & J	Mary Ellen
*John Motley	Darlene	Jan	Mary W.H.
*Peter Oesterreich	Daryana	Jim	Max
*Janis Pongallo	David R.	Jim	MJ
*DeeDee Rencehausen	Dennis	John	Rosie
*Nadene & Dennis Smith	Diane	Joshua C.	Roy Buser
*Joan Thorkelson	Dixie	Kathy	Seth Buser
*Galen Younkin	Dotty	Laurie	Sheri G.
Ukraine, Israel and Gaza	Doug Emery	Lee	Ted Nyland
Al Tobey	Ed Rote	Lily Van Scyoc	Tom Szor
Carol De Laat	Erik T.	Lindsey Elswick	Viola
Pastor Jason Thompson			

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH –

## A Review of Prominent Black Theologians – Week Three

### The Rev. Dr. Barbara A. Holmes<sup>4</sup>

Barbara A. Holmes (1943-2024) was a spiritual teacher, activist, and scholar focused on African American spirituality, mysticism, cosmology and culture.

Holmes was born in 1943 in East Orange, New Jersey. She was President Emerita of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (2012-2016), and also served as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Memphis Theological Seminary (2005-2010). Before the call to ministry, Holmes worked as an early childhood educator, a professional actor (Equity, SAG, AFTRA), and a corporate lawyer in Georgia, Florida and Texas. She was ordained in the Latter Rain Apostolic Holiness Church in Dallas, Texas, and had the privilege of call in the United Church of Christ and recognition of ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In addition, Dr. Holmes worked with homeless missions, HIV/AIDS support groups and international ministries in Kenya (the Presbyterian Church of East Africa) and Japan.



Dr. Holmes earned the following degrees: a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a minor in Theatre Arts from the University of Connecticut; a Master of Science in Education from Southern Connecticut University; a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion (Ethics) from Vanderbilt. Also, she earned a law degree from Walter F. George School of Law, at Mercer University.

At the time of her death, Dr. Holmes was a faculty member of the Center for Action and Contemplation, a ministry of Father Richard Rohr ([www.cac.org](http://www.cac.org)). As posted on the CAC website<sup>5</sup>:

“[“Dr. B”] invited us to imagine a reality beyond the confines of our everyday experience – a space where joy, connection and justice can truly reign. She called us to stretch both our social and spiritual imaginations in ways we are still learning to embrace.”

Some of Holmes’ published works include:

*Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church  
Liberation and the Cosmos*

*Race and the Cosmos: An Invitation to View the World Differently ,*

*A Private Woman in Public Spaces: Barbara Jordan’s Speeches on Ethics, Public Religion, and Law*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.drbarbaraholmes.com/bio>

<sup>5</sup> <https://cac.org/news/in-loving-memory-of-dr-barbara-holmes/>

## STAR WORDS

Last month in worship we handed out “Star Words”. I invite you to take the word you chose and use it throughout the year as a way to center your prayer time and to be aware of God’s presence throughout the day. If you have not received a word, please let Pastor Dianne know and she will get one to you! Each week in the bulletin there will be a journal prompt or reflection question that encourages you in your use of the word.

For this week: **What barriers or fears might prevent you from fully living out your word?**

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank all of those who are involved in making the beautiful music that we get to enjoy at Christ UMC. Special thanks to Anna Pengov who on short notice was able to fill in for Roy during his recent illness. Also thanks to Ruth Cunningham and Lisa Van Scyoc who also filled in on the keyboards. We want to especially thanks Susan Balesky who organizes and keeps the music flowing here as our music director. And thanks of course to our wonderful, talented choir. Thanks to all of you!!

## SERMON NOTES

# SERMON NOTES

# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION<sup>6</sup>

One commentator on Luke 6:17–26 writes, “‘Blessed’ (*makarios*) does not simply describe a state of happiness or bliss. Rather, it refers in a theological sense to one’s standing before God (Deut. 33:29; Pss. 1:1; 40:4).”<sup>\*</sup> As you reflect on the blessings and woes in Luke’s Gospel and on the use of the word “happy” in Psalm 1:1 and “blessed” in Jeremiah 17:7, how does this meaning of “blessed” or “happy” contrast with contemporary uses of this word, even by some preachers? What is one change you can make in your own life before God that would bring you into closer accord with Jesus’ understanding of blessedness?

<sup>\*</sup> From Gay L. Byron, “Exegetical Perspective” on Luke 6:17–26, Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C*, Volume 4, ed. David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009), 361.

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of this new day.  
Guide my steps as I face choices to care for the earth or not,  
to show compassion toward others or not, to care for myself or not,  
to be true to Christ or not.  
May each of my choices draw me closer to you. Amen.

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

Tonight I come home to you in prayer, my God.  
Thank you for guiding me through this day,  
even when I was not conscious of it.  
Now I give this day back to you,  
entrusting all that I did and all that I left undone  
to your compassionate care.  
May I rest in peace. Amen.

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<sup>6</sup> These questions for reflection and prayers are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012.



# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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PASTOR: *The Rev. Dianne Tobey Covault, OSL*

Cell: 216.509.4229

Email: [pastordiannetc@gmail.com](mailto:pastordiannetc@gmail.com)

Office Hours this week: Monday through Wednesday by appointment

LITURGIST: *Sandy Foster*

USHERS: *Al Naab, Phil Jennings, John Murphy*

GREETERS: *Nancy Horton*

ACOLYTES: *Ian Eagan, Ben Eagan, Eli Gadomski Littleton, TJ Wood, Grace Horton*

AUDIO and VIDEO TECHNICIANS: *John Motley, Rob Pongallo*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: *Susan Balesky*

ORGANIST/PIANIST: *Roy Buser*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: *Desiree Tarpeo*

Email: [office@christumc.com](mailto:office@christumc.com)

Office Hours: *Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm*

## GOAL - FOCUS - STRATEGIES

**GOAL:** Grow in relationship with Jesus Christ in order to change the world around us, starting with our own community.

**FOCUS:** To achieve this goal, we will prioritize reaching out to our community as essential to our personal and congregational growth as Christians.

### STRATEGIES:

1. We will build meaningful relationships with the people in our community.
2. We will strive to listen and understand the needs of our community.
3. We will use our building and resources to meet those needs in a tangible way.



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## *Christ UMC Welcomes All*

*We welcome all persons to our church without regard to race, ethnic or cultural background, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, theological perspective, political affiliation, or other means people use to categorize or discriminate against others. For our full statement, go to our website.*

***Ask an usher if you would like a LARGE PRINT HYMNAL,  
Braille hymnal or hearing device.***