

*The United Methodist Church
12 Commerce Street
Clinton, CT*



*January 25, 2026
3rd Sunday after Epiphany*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder:

Today and every day, Jesus says, "Come! Follow me." Today and every day, let us answer, "You, Lord Jesus, are the one we seek."

Introit

Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship (Responsively)

To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.

To those who dwell in gloom and despair,

God's glorious presence has appeared.

God is indeed our light and our salvation.

We will follow, unafraid, where God and Jesus lead us.

Let us worship our God of light and promise.

Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.

*Opening Hymn

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

No. 2173

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of light and love, we come this morning with eyes stinging from the brightness of your glory. We have become so accustomed to the darkness, that your radiant light sometimes overwhelms us. Open our eyes to the light of your dawn, that our souls may be flooded with love and mercy and joy. Open our hearts to receive your message of comfort and peace and security, that we may find rest in your loving, protective presence. Open our spirits to follow the path you put before us, that we may lead lives committed to your Way. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of our light and our salvation, sometimes we prefer to live in darkness, embracing the safety and anonymity of the shadows; sometimes we delight in our divisions, believing we are better than others; sometimes the yoke of our calling feels too heavy, and we seek to slip out from under the bar across our shoulders. Forgive our fear. Forgive our aversion to the light. Forgive our unresponsiveness to your call. Forgive our willful blindness and deafness to the Way. Help us know deep in our souls that you are our light and our salvation, our joy and our wonder, our very life. Hear us as we cry aloud in our need. Amen.

Brief moment of silent confession

Words of Assurance

Our God of light and love hears us when we cry aloud. We have nothing to fear. Know that this God of light wraps us in comforting arms, lifts us from the darkness of our guilt and sin, and forgives us once and for all. Know that we will dwell in safety in God's house, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

1st Scripture Reading (Old Testament)

Psalm 27:1,4-9

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"How Great Is Our God" Arr. Christopher

Chancel Choir

Children's Moment

Pastor Rhonda Taylor

*2nd Scripture Reading (Gospel)

Matthew 4:12-23

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

No. 399

Sermon

Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Offertory

*Doxology

#95

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Steadfast Light of our salvation, in a world that trembles with uncertainty and teaches us to fear, you shine with unwavering hope. You call us to seek your face and trust in your presence more than in our own strength. Receive these gifts, given not out of fear but in joyful confidence that your love casts out fear and your grace makes us bold. Use our offerings to build a world where your light leads, your justice reigns, and your people—unafraid—become living testimonies of your goodness. In the name of Christ, our rock and redeemer, we pray. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Lord's Prayer

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

*Closing Hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" No. 2129

Benediction

Go forth bathed in the light and love of God. Go forth to join with Jesus to proclaim the good news of this love and light. Go forth empowered by the Spirit to live the Way with courage, conviction, and joy.

*Response "Bless Us Now" Frank Milnes
Bless us now as we depart, watch o'er us, God, while we're apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Confession, Assurance, Benediction

https://ministrymatters.com/2019-12-24_worship_elements_january_22_2023_option_1/

Annual Meeting is February 8th

We need soups (3), sandwich bread, rolls, ham, turkey/chicken, roast beef, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, chips. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on sheet in Fellowship Hall, name, what you will bring and if you can help with set up or take down of tables and chairs. Thank you..

Thank you to our congregation for the tremendous support at our Soup Sale last Sunday. We are so grateful to the 24 Soup Makers and to everyone who purchased soup as well.

~Mission Committee~

SUNDAY, JAN 25

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship
11:00 Fellowship/Staff Parish Meeting

MONDAY, JAN 26

2:30 Book Club

TUESDAY, JAN 27

10:00 Clever Crafters
7:00 Bible Study Online

WEDNESDAY, JAN 28

9:30 TOPS
5:00 Community Supper

THURSDAY, JAN 29

10:00 Bible Study
7:30 Choir

FRIDAY, JAN 30

5:30 AA meeting



***There will be another soup sale after Church today.
This is certainly the best weather for it. Thank you for your support.***

Ushers: Sharon Minick, Bill Hancock, Lynda Larson, Banks Babjak

Camera Operator: Erica Babjak

Video Coordinator: Sharon Minick

Worship Leader: Sue Alexander

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Lectioary scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1. 4-9 (UM758), 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23, Luke 4:14-21

Fellowship Hosts: Hales

Counters: Roger Templeton and Bob Hawes

Music/Choir Director: Bob Hale

Organist: Patty Hurlburt

Office Staff

Donna Carpenter-Bronson, 860-669-8396, 9-1 weekdays

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Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg

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