

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



**February 2, 2025
4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Communion
Black History Month**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

Prelude

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" John 13:34-35

Introit

Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship (Unison)

Grace to you and peace from our Loving God and our Savior Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God for the grace that has been given to us in Christ Jesus; we have been enriched in Christ, in speech and knowledge of every kind.

*Opening Hymn

"In Christ Alone"

See attached

Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

In a cynical and despairing world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your hope. In a violent and angry world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your peace. In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion. In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your love. In a grieving and weeping world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your joy.

May we be so captivated by your hope, O God, that we cannot help but to whisper, to sing, and to enact, the message of your reign which is always coming into our world; And may our quietly prophetic lives be channels of your restoring grace wherever we may go. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God, you share with us words of hope, words of Good News.

But sometimes, we are unable to hear them because the source is too familiar. You call us to share the Good News with those around us. But sometimes we

are unable to share, because the people know us too well. You encourage us to send messengers to other places where they will be heard better. But we can be jealous, wanting the Good News to be for us, not them.

**In the multitude of ways, we can and have subverted
your message of freedom and healing,
in all the ways we have kept the Jubilee year from happening,
we have left the path of true wisdom
and call upon your Grace to lead us back on track.**

Time of silent prayer

Words of Assurance

This is the time of God's favor, God's grace continues to proclaim release to the captives, Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. We live as loved, forgiven, and free people through the grace of God! Hallelujah! Amen.

1st Scripture Reading (New Testament)

1Corinthians 13:1-13

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Chancel Choir

*Communion Hymn

“One Bread, One Body”

#620

*2nd Scripture Reading (Gospel Lesson)

Luke 4:21-30

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Sermon

“Be Persistent in Love”

Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Offertory

*Doxology

#95

*Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

Faithful God, who calls us to follow and empowers us by your Spirit, we bring these gifts to you in gratitude and hope. May they be used to proclaim good news, set the oppressed free, and bring sight to the blind. Transform our offerings into acts of love and justice that reflect the mission of Jesus in this world. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to Communion

Communion Litany

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so,

with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Holy Communion is served

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

#77

Benediction

May God our Creator renew in us the creative Spirit
that brings healing and life to our world.
May Jesus the Christ uphold us in grace and love.
May the Holy Spirit fill us with courage
to be bearers of God’s song of hope in our hometown and beyond. Amen.

*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

Flowers today are from the Hales in honor of Graham’s 8th Birthday

Game day is today from 2-5 pm.