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## THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE LORD'S DAY, 17 January, Anno Domini 2021

Eleven o'clock in the morning | The Sanctuary

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✠ denotes the People standing, in body or spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in **bold**.



### SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

*Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. As we gather, allow Your Spirit to fill our every being. As we worship today, we remember our brothers and sisters who are worshipping elsewhere throughout the world. Inspire each of us to work more faithfully for justice and dignity of life everywhere. Raise our vision above the barriers of color, culture, and creed that separate us. Give us wisdom as we deal with one another. Help us to recognize and to respect different ways, rather than to judge. In the Spirit of Jesus who came not to be served, but to serve, we now must walk in the world. We must reach out our hands with help and open our hearts in love. Awake in us the desire to seek Your Way of serving You in the world. Amen.*

—*Litany for Human Relations Day (The United Methodist Book of Worship, 423)*

### GREETING

Pastor Mark Conforti

(You may visit our church website via the link above or our monthly [newsletter](#) for more information on upcoming ministry opportunities.)

### PRELUDE

Joshua Starnes, piano

*Medley for the Children*

arr. Charlton Bozard

(includes "Praise Him, All Ye Little Children" | "Jesus Loves the Little Children" | "Jesus Loves Me")

### ✠ CALL to WORSHIP

We gather to worship as we remember that it is not we who chose Christ,  
**but Christ who chose us.**

That we are not here because of our goodness  
**but because of Christ's grace.**

That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,  
**but to allow Christ to enlighten us.**

That we have not come to be entertained  
**but to worship God with heart, soul, mind, and strength.**

O Worship the King

LYONS

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” These may be some of the best-known words in the Bible, but in 1835, Robert Grant wrote a text that helps us see the creation story in a new light. His meditation on the creation theme of Psalm 104 consists of six verses that parallel the six days of creation. But rather than simply paraphrase the psalm or the first two books of the Bible, Grant focuses on how creation is a testimony to God’s “measureless might.” And Grant’s beautiful text doesn’t stop at Genesis Two. Rather, in the fourth and fifth verse we celebrate God’s saving grace to his creation. When God took that seventh day of rest, he was not signaling an end. He continued to bless His creation, even those as feeble and frail as us. In the last verse, Grant points to Christ as the ultimate reconciler of a broken, but still beautiful creation. An original last stanza that we no longer sing reads, “The humbler creation, though feeble their lays, with true adoration shall lisp to Thy praise.”*



1. O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly  
 2. O tell of God’s might, O sing of God’s grace, whose robe is the  
 3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told, Al - might - y, thy  
 4. Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the  
 5. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in thee do we



sing God’s power and God’s love; our Shield and De - fend - er, the  
 light, whose can - o - py space, whose char - iots of wrath the deep  
 power hath found - ed of old; hath stab - lished it fast by a  
 air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it de -  
 trust, nor find thee to fail; thy mer - cies how ten - der, how



An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.  
 thun - der - clouds form, and dark is God’s path on the wings of the storm.  
 change - less de - cree, and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 scends to the plain, and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 firm to the end, our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

*Words: Robert Grant, 1833 (Psalm 104)*

*Music: attr. Johann Michael Haydn; arr. William Gardiner, 1815.*

✠ PRAYER of LAMENT, CONFESSION, and REPENTANCE (*responsively*)

Pastor Stacey Lundy

Let us be bold and confess our sins, for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

God of Grace,

For our failure to love others as You have loved us,

**forgive us.**

For wasting Your gifts and hoarding our goods,

**forgive us.**

For losing heart and abandoning hope,

**forgive us.**

For all the ways we turn from You,

**forgive us...**

*(a brief period of silence follows for personal confession)*

We offer our prayers in the Name of the One who saves us, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE

Grace flows like a river; Mercy like a never-ending stream. Believe the Good News:

**in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.**

✠ DOXOLOGY

DUKE STREET

**P**raise 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.**

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, alt.*

*Music: John Hatton, 1793.*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (*in unison*)

**Speak to us, by the power of Your Holy Spirit,  
and equip us to be messengers of Your life-altering,  
world-changing, blessing-filled Word.**

**Through Jesus Christ we pray.**

**Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

[Genesis 28.10-22](#)

GOSPEL LESSON

[Luke 18.1-8](#)

... This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Pastor Mark Conforti



1. Blessed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-  
2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, perfect de-light, Vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my  
3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and



vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, Born of His  
sight: An - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove Echo - es of  
blest; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, Filled with His



Spir - it, washed in His blood. This is my sto - ry, this is my  
mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
good - ness, lost in His love.



song, Prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; This is my



sto - ry, this is my song, Prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873.

Music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873.

arr. Paul Marino & Carl Seal; © 2008 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP).

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day He rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick\* and the dead.**

[\*living]

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\*\* Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

[\*\*universal]

#### OFFERING

*(You may support the ministries of FUMC by clicking the "Offering" link above to make a donation through our secure Online portal.)*

PASTORAL PRAYER of INTERCESSION and THANKSGIVING  
*concluding with THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)*

*from Matthew 6.9-13*

**O**ur 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.



1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ the head and cor-ner-stone;
2. To this tem-ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day!
3. Here vouch-safe to all thy ser-vants what they ask of thee to gain;
4. Laud and hon-or to the Fa-ther, laud and hon-or to the Son,



cho-sen of the Lord and pre-cious, bind-ing all the church in one;  
 With thy faith-ful lov-ing-kind-ness hear thy peo-ple as they pray,  
 what they gain from thee for-ev-er with the bless-ed to re-tain,  
 laud and hon-or to the Spir-it, ev-er three and ev-er one;



ho-ly Zi-on's help for-ev-er, and her con-fi-dence a-lone.  
 and thy full-est ben-e-dic-tion shed with-in its walls al-way.  
 and here-af-ter in thy glo-ry ev-er-more with thee to reign.  
 one in might and one in glo-ry, while un-end-ing a-ges run.

*Words: VII Century Latin; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851 (Ephesians 2.20-22; 1 Peter 2.4-7).*

*Music: Henry Purcell, ca. 1680; adapt. Ernest Hawkins, 1842.*

✠ BENEDICTION *and* COMMISSION

*(Please bow your head and extend your hands to receive the blessing.)*

POSTLUDE

*O Worship the King*

Joshua Starnes, *organ*

Nigel Williams



THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP

*(listed alphabetically)*

THE REVEREND DR. MARK CONFORTI	<i>Senior Pastor</i>
MS. JEN FOGT	<i>Video Producer</i>
MASTER AUSTIN HEDRICK	<i>Acolyte</i>
THE REVEREND STACEY LUNDY	<i>Associate Pastor of Discipleship &amp; Pastoral Care</i>
MR. JOSHUA W. STARNES	<i>Director of Music &amp; Organist</i>



This Week's Lectionary Readings  
*(Jan. 17–23)*

<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Day 4</i>	<i>Day 5</i>
Genesis 24	Genesis 25–26	Genesis 27–28	Genesis 29	Genesis 30
Psalm 11	Luke 17–18	Psalm 4	Psalm 127	Luke 21
Luke 16		Luke 19	Luke 20	



*The ALPHA AND OMEGA Ordinary Time banner reminds us that God is Alpha and Omega: the One who holds our beginning, our present, and our end. The color of Ordinary Time is green, symbolizing a Christian's growth in understanding Jesus, His mission, and the promise of new life. The splendor of creation is on display in the banner. The road winds through; we do not know where it goes, except that God's love spans its entirety.*



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*The Mission of First United Methodist Church is  
To Make and Nurture Christian Disciples Through the Presence and Power of God.*