

“ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

10 a.m.

January 30, 2022

* indicates “stand if you are able.” UMH is the blue hymnal. TFWS is the small black book.

INTROIT *"Come Follow Me"* by Joel Raney
CUMC Adult Choir

The kingdom of heaven is near. As you have received, so, then must you give.
Be not afraid with the Lord at your side, for Jesus died so we may live.
He said, “Come follow me. Come follow me. Come by yourselves to a quiet place.
Come follow me. Come follow me.” That someday we may see His face.

Those who are weary, take rest. Look to Him for comfort and He will soothe your soul.
For He is gentle and humble in heart, and Jesus died to make us whole.
He said, “Come follow me. Come follow me. Come by yourselves to a quiet place.
Come follow me. Come follow me.” That someday we may see His face.

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS

One: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The risen Christ is with us.

All: Praise the Lord!

*HYMN *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”* UMH #110

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

One: Offer God your worship and your praise.

All: Before God formed us in our mothers’ wombs, God knew and loved us.

One: Offer Christ your love and your devotion.

All: Before we drew our first breath, Christ consecrated us as his own.

One: Offer the Spirit your gratitude and your thanksgiving.

All: Before we heard the call to heal the world, the Spirit sustained our every heartbeat.

One: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

All: We will offer God our worship and our praise.

One: And together let us pray.

All: Generous and loving God, we come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all we are and all that we have is a gift from you. In faith and love, help us to do your will. We seek to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, and to be holy. Give us the wisdom and insight to understand your will for us and the fervor to carry out our good intentions. Help us reach out to others as you have reached out to us. Gracious God, the topic of personal finances is a challenging one for many of us. We struggle with unwise spending decisions, rising credit debt, and dwindling savings. We wrestle with the desire for more stuff, newer stuff, and better stuff. We resist the call to simplify and give more

generously. Open our hearts to receive your wisdom and guidance, and empower us to respond by applying what we learn in practical ways. May we become wise managers of our possessions. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN *“Lord of the Dance” Verses 1, 2, 3 & 4* UMH #261

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES *“Children’s Message”*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let all who wish to know the ways of life and death listen for the word of God. Truly the presence of the Lord is in this place.

THE PSALM READING Psalm 71:1-6

THE EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

THE GOSPEL READING Matthew 16:26

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *“When Dreams Become Nightmares”*

*HYMN *“Change of My Heart, O God”* TFWS #2152

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another.
(From UMH page 7)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that in many ways we have bought into the lie of the “American Dream,” which says that success is defined by profits, portfolios, possessions, prestige, and pleasure. We struggle with the yearning for more, and often we try to satisfy this yearning by pursuing material things rather than pursuing you. Forgive us, Lord, change our hearts, and correct our vision. Give us your perspective on finance and possessions. Help us not to focus on all the things we wish we had, but to be grateful for what we do have. Teach us to wisely manage the resources you have given us so that when you prompt us to help those in need, we are free to do it. Enable us to live simply, to be content, and to give generously. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Loving God continues to shape our lives today. Rejoice in the good news: God knows us and loves us as we are. God’s love heals our wounds. By the grace of God, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (in unison)

Offering our gifts to God is a holy act. In this sacred moment, let us offer our gifts and our lives to the holy work of God.

WEEKLY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Freely Given” words by Susan Bentall Boersman
CUMC Adult Choir Arranged by David Lantz III

Holy Father, You freely gave, gave Your one and only son;
So great a gift, so great the cost to save the world, to save but one.

Son divine, You freely gave, from the cross the cleansing flood.
Prayers and tears could not pardon my sin,
nothing less than Your precious blood.

Gracious Spirit, You freely call. Gracious Spirit, You bid me come.
And my believing is my receiving.
Through Your call, my freedom is won.

*DOXOLOGY *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* UMH #95

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Source of every blessing, you are our refuge and our strength. Even before we were born, you knew us completely. You have watched over us all the days of our lives. Receive these offerings and the gratitude of thankful hearts. We offer our gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect our love for you and our neighbors. May we bring your message of love to a world deafened by clanging cymbals and noisy gongs. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN *“It is Well with My Soul”* UMH #377

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Open our heart, O God. Make us new.

All: **Teach us generosity and help us have joy.**

One: The Spirit sends you with the power of love to sustain your life.

All: **We go in the power of God’s love to be ambassadors of Christ’s love and peace. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us share God’s love and peace with one another.

PLEASE JOIN CUMC IN-PERSON/ZOOM COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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