**ST. JOHN’S and ST. PAUL’S UCC**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 19, 2025**

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (UCC Worship Ways – Inspired by Psalm 36)

One: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

**ALL: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!**

One: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep.

**ALL: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!**

One: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of

heart!

**ALL: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION(UCC Worship Ways)

**Magnificent God, we come to draw near to you. Your presence among us sustains and challenges us. In you, we find strength and surprises. May the songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the word proclaimed, and the lives touched honor your name. We give you glory and honor. We welcome you and pray that your spirit shapes us with fresh wind, power, and compassion. Amen.**

SONG (on monitors) [On Mountains Alone](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--jSyXQrSPg) – Amber Smith

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE: St. John’s: Patty Stuckmann

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Spiritual Gifts (The Message)

What I want to talk about now is the various ways God’s Spirit gets worked into our lives. This is complex and often misunderstood, but I want you to be informed and knowledgeable. Remember how you were when you didn’t know God, led from one phony god to another, never knowing what you were doing, just doing it because everybody else did it? It’s different in this life. God wants us to use our intelligence, to seek to understand as well as we can. For instance, by using your heads, you know perfectly well that the Spirit of God would never prompt anyone to say, “Jesus be damned!” Nor would anyone be inclined to say, “Jesus is Master!” without the insight of the Holy Spirit.

God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is. Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful:

wise counsel, clear understanding, simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation,

distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.

John 2:1-11 The Wedding at Cana (NRSVUE)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So, they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

THE MESSAGE – Gifts and Glory: Where Spirit Meets Service

ST JOHN’s - RECEPTION of NEW MEMBERS – Page 44, New Century Hymnal – Response **A**

SONG #1 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Joys and Concerns*)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (St. John’s: *debts/debtors;* St. Paul’s: sins/sin against us)

**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 (*debts*/sins), as we forgive (*our debtors*/those who sin 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.**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY (UCC Worship Ways)

**Whatever gifts we bring may be transformed like water to the best wine. Trust God with what we have to offer. Our trust can sow miracles, reveal Jesus in the world, and magnify joy in our communities. Give with peace that the kingdom overflows with abundance and with hope that our collective efforts make the world new.**

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD #785 (*While the offering is brought forward*)

**We give you but your own, what-e’er the gift may be;**

**All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER (UCC Worship Ways)

**Holy One, may our gifts declare your glory and benefit the common good. Receive them with our gratitude for your generosity and the opportunity to participate in your kingdom on earth. Amen.**

SONG #50 – I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*THE BENEDICTION (UCC Worship Ways)

ONE: May you be filled by the presence of God. May you draw from the wells of justice, peace, and righteousness. May you taste the fruit of the Spirit. As you make the way of Jesus your path in the world. And you make the name of God known in word and deed.

**ALL: Go, in peace and power to love and serve God and neighbor. Amen.**

\*THE POSTLUDE