

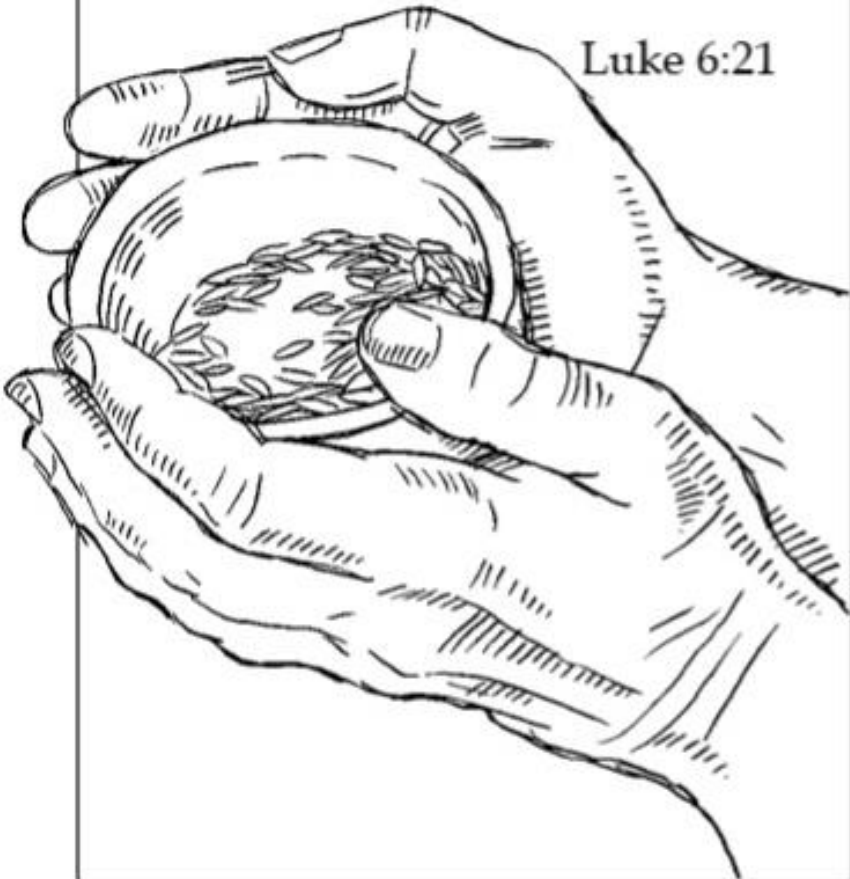
Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church
419 Bossardsville Road
Stroudsburg, PA

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025

"Blessed are you who
are hungry now, for
you will be filled."

Luke 6:21



Welcome to Christ Hamilton! Thank you for joining with us in worship in whatever manner you can. This service is also available anytime on Facebook or our website along with a bulletin at www.chrighthamilton.org. Please share in the responses, sing the hymns, and pray the prayers. Call us and connect with us whenever you need.

Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please know that all are welcome at Christ Hamilton! Life is difficult enough and shouldn't be when you come to church. Regardless of how you got here, we are glad you did. If you don't know your neighbor please welcome them. **All are welcome here!** Please join us for coffee hour after the service in the serving area of the Lighthouse (*building to right as you exit*). At Christ Hamilton we are an intentional community of faith, gathered in worship, united in fellowship and generous in our outreach.

Today's service: *Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.*

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Harry Motz, by Kathleen Hinton.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

SONG

Let Justice Flow

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line in G-clef (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line in C-clef (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system contains three lines of lyrics. The second system contains three lines of lyrics. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

GREETING

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Minister: Let us pray. . . . Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 17:5-10

Reader: A reading from the 17th chapter of Jeremiah.

⁵ Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sung responsively.

PSALM

Psalm 1



Cantor: Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the
wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of
the scornful!

**All: Their delight is in the law | of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.**

Cantor: They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

**All: It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

Cantor: Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment
comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

**All: For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20

Reader: A reading from the 15th chapter of First Corinthians.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

Minister: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

SONG

Light Dawns



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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APOSTLE'S CREED

Minister: Let us confess our faith together.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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**

Prayers

Assisting Minister: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation.

God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way especially Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living.

God of grace,

All: Hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

All: Amen.

PEACE

Assisting Minister: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The Peace is shared with one another.

Offering

Offertory

Making their Way v. 1, 2



1 Mak - ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak - ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak - ing our way sea - son by sea - son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. . . . God of grace,

**All: Your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

**Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.**

**Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, Almighty and Merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses
of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Minister: You are indeed Holy, Almighty and Merciful God.
 You are most Holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
 You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
 to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things
 for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Minister: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**All: 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,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Communion

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled glasses of grape juice are available in the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the Pastor.

Please come forward by way of the right aisle, receive the bread from the pastor and move to the chalice. Return by way of the left hand aisle as you return to your seat.

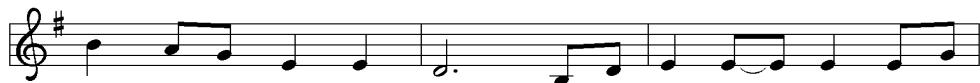
Minister: The body of Christ given for you.

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ shed for you.

Canticle of Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.



Wipe a-way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional

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COMMUNION BLESSING

Minister: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us
for service, and send us out to embody your
good news of liberation and healing for the sake
of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

All: Amen

BLESSING

Minister: The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace, illumine your path,
and increase your joy, today and always.

All: Amen.

SONG

Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



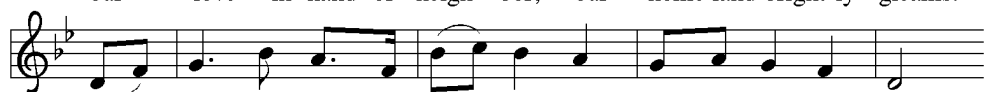
give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Dismissal:

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders

Minister:	Rev. Steven C. Claycomb
Keyboard:	Gail Derrer
Lector:	Janet Catina
Lay Assistant:	Janet Catina
Greeters:	Bill Smyth, Bev Streck
Choir Director:	Tassy Gilbert
Accompanist:	Gail Derrer
Announcements:	Amanda Balas, Office Administrator
Videographer:	Steve Metzgar, Craig & Anson Cassidy

Coffee Hour: NO COFFEE HOUR TODAY

Prayer at the Rail - Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer at the altar after the service for any concerns that you might have.

Please Remember in Prayer: Sandy H., Betty J., Jim H. If you, or someone you know has been hospitalized or needs a pastoral visit please let the office know 570-992-4085.

Happy Birthday! Rosie Potochnick 2/1, Emil Suarez 2/1, Denise DeVivo 2/2, Sharon Sabatine 2/3, Michelle Teeple 2/4, Amy Leap 2/5, Eileen Dorshimer 2/15, Ernie Staples 2/22, Ellie Balas 2/23

Fellowship Dinner will be held at The Moor, Stroudsmoor Country Inn's Restaurant at 5:30pm on February 19th. Please RSVP to the church office by Tuesday at noon on the 18th, 570-992-4085.

Will we choose?

A fundamental decision is placed before us this day: Will we choose the way of blessing or the way of woe? The death and resurrection of Jesus is the pivot on which the decision turns. To be in Christ means that we get planted by streams of water and are rooted among those who thirst for God's reign. The mystery of our faith points the path to life: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Jeremiah warns us that “the heart is devious above all else; it is perverse” (17:9). Hearts can be dwelling places of self-centeredness, prejudice, and brokenness. We commemorate Martin Luther on Tuesday. In Luther's *Theology of the Cross* (Cascade Books, 2018), Dennis Ngien explains that Luther made a “distinction between two kinds of love: amor Dei and amor hominis”—that is, God's love and human love (p. 369).

Human love works only for its own gain. God's love, however, “seeks not its own good but others' deepest needs. . . . [it is] true love, born of the cross, [that] moves toward the direction where it shares with others” (p. 370). In the word and the sacraments we are united to Christ in faith and receive his own heart. Don't follow your heart, the preacher may want to proclaim; follow Christ's heart beating in your chest!