

Nothing is softer
or more flexible than water,
yet nothing can resist it.

~Lao Tzu

Sunday, January 10, 2021

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning. Please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

Welcome Children. We invite children to full participation in worship.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer. A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

Subscribe to our email lists: Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

Communications Requests: Please use the form at www.parkwayucc.org/communications for all announcements for the bulletin/eNews/website/social media/etc. Bulletin and eNews communications request deadline is noon Monday. Bulletin announcements will generally be run for three weeks prior to the event. However, all announcements will be posted via our various publications as fits in our communications strategy and as resources permit.

Pledge Campaign for our Mission & Ministry 2021

We are still accepting pledges: <https://parkwayucc.org/giving/pledge/>

Thank you for your continuing support of Parkway United Church of Christ.

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Anniversaries

1/10 NOLTE, Bill & Karen (34)

Birthdays

1/11 BRUEGGEMANN, Kacey

1/13 ADKINS, Mary

1/11 TARR, Kathleen

1/14 PEEK, Marsha

1/12 TOOMBS, Lynn

1/14 PILLAI, Janie

Baptism of Christ Sunday

Sunday, January 10, 2021 | 10:00am | Facebook Live

Gathering Music

Meditation

All the water that will ever be is right now. ~National Geographic

Welcome

Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude

Baptized in Water (Buessan – a Gaelic melody)

Based on arr. by Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Scripture

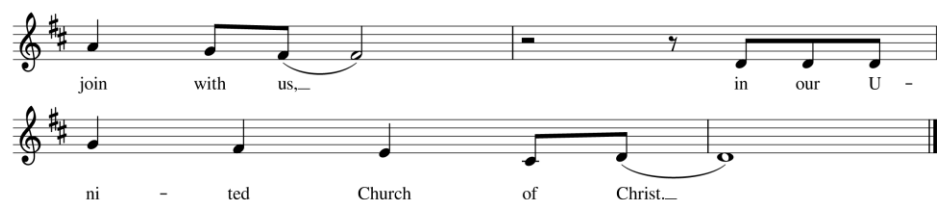
Genesis 1:1-5 (New Revised Standard Version)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Welcome Song

You Are Welcome Here

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and welcoming, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "You are wel - come here... no mat-ter who you are... no mat - ter where you are... on life's jour - ney... You are wel - come here... no mat - ter who you are... come and". The score consists of five staves of music, each with a line of lyrics underneath. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style, suitable for a church service.



Scripture Psalm 29 (CEB)

You, divine beings! Give to the Lord—give to the Lord glory and power! Give to the Lord the glory due God’s name! Bow down to the Lord in holy splendor!

The Lord’s voice is over the waters; the glorious God thunders; the Lord is over the mighty waters. The Lord’s voice is strong; the Lord’s voice is majestic.

The Lord’s voice breaks cedar trees—yes, the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon. God makes Lebanon jump around like a young bull, makes Sirion jump around like a young wild ox.

The Lord’s voice unleashes fiery flames; the Lord’s voice shakes the wilderness—yes, the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The Lord’s voice convulses the oaks, strips the forests bare, but in God’s temple everyone shouts, “Glory!”

The Lord sits enthroned over the floodwaters; the Lord sits enthroned—God forever! Let the Lord give strength to the people! Let the Lord bless the people with peace!

Call to Worship Sylvia Dunstan

One:	Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the spirit’s breath, first to witness day’s beginning from the brightness of night’s death.
Many:	Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through, washing off the chains of bondage—channel to a life made new.
One:	Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the one love-told, opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.
Many:	Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul. Well-spring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *I Was There to Hear Your Born-ing Cry*



1. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 3. When you heard the won - der of the Word, I was
 5. In the mid - dle ag - es of your life, not too
 7. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing Lord to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.



2. I was there when you were but a child with a
 4. If you find some-one to share your time and you
 6. When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have



wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

D.C.

Opening Prayer UCC Book of Worship, adapted

[Place your bowl of water before you.]

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless this water, Gracious God, that by it we may enliven us for living and loving. Amen.

Response *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Children's Time Children and Youth are invited to separate Zoom classrooms immediately following this Children's Time.

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves Me*

Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong

Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,

Wanting as a friend to give, Life and love to all who live

Yes, Jesus loves me...

Scripture Matthew 3:13-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Song *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,

Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy enfolding love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,

Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,

Come to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious love.

O to grace I'm very grateful, daily I live hopefully!

Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love:

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Sermon

Call to Prayer *As the Deer*

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score includes a key signature change to 2/4 time for a short section and then returns to 4/4 time.

As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter
you. You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I
long to wor - ship you. You a - lone are my
strength, my shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it
yield. You a - lone are my heart's de -
sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] **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 as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

Song *Wade in the Water*

Refrain



Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, children,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a-gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter. *Fine*

Leader



1. See that host all dressed in white,
2. See that band all dressed in red,
3. Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4. If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

All *Leader*



God's a-gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter. The lead - er looks like the
Looks like the band that
The Ho - ly Ghost a -
Just fol-low me down to

Leader *All*



Is - rael - ite,
Mo - ses led, God's a-gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter.
com-ing on me,
Jor - dan's stream,

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude *Down to the River to Pray*—traditional

Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made known;
Creator, Word and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication *Rosemary McCombs Maxey*

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.
We thank you that you claim us,
that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us,
that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.
In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.
Establish us to be places of refreshment.
Root us and nurture us in love,
that with all your people, that we may rightly and justly serve you.
Fill us with your fullness
that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

Song of Parting *The Summons*



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? ____ Will you go where you don't know and
your name? ____ Will you care for cruel and kind and
your name? ____ Will you set the pris - oners free and
your name? ____ Will you quell the fear in - side and
my name. ____ Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? ____ Will you let my love be
nev - er be the same? ____ Will you risk the hos - tile
nev - er be the same? ____ Will you kiss the lep - er
nev - er be the same? ____ Will you use the faith you've
nev - er be the same. ____ In your com - pa - ny I'll



shown, — will you let my name be known, — will you
stare — should your life at - tract or scare? — Will you
clean, — and do such as this un - seen, — and ad -
found — to re - shape the world a - round, — through my
go — where your love and foot - steps show. — Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me? —
let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? —
mit to what I mean in you and you in me? —
sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? —
move and live and grow in you and you in me. —

Benediction

God's Light Goes Forth

Music for Going Forth *Stand Up!*

Based on *Carlisle* by Charles Lockhart, 1769

Announcements

Adult Baptism Ceremony by James Burklo

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Mother,
source of life, from whom water flows, to whom water returns,

In the name of the Son, in the name of the Daughter,
flesh and blood in whom we meet the Divine,
born of the physical water of childbirth and the subtle water of Spirit,

In the name of the Spirit, the Word, holy Mother Wisdom,
ideal formless form, wind that moves water,
unseen energy, bliss of creativity, rapturous beauty,

We baptize you with this water,
and wash away all that obscures God from your soul,
so that you may become a clear, clean mirror reflecting the presence of the
divine.

With this water we awaken you to your divine nature,
ordain you to works of service and compassion,
and confirm your intention to grow in love for God and all beings. Amen.

Announcements

TED Book Group: This I Believe (starts January 12)

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 7:00pm | via Zoom

Please join us for some fun and inspiring discussion of the book *This I Believe* edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman. Volume 1.

Based on the NPR series of the same name, it features 80 short essays. Some were written by famous people and other essays were written by lesser known folks. These essays may bring us moments to reflect and rethink how we have arrived at our own personal beliefs and also the extent to which we share them with others. *For our first session of this book discussion, please read up through Temple Grandin's essay which ends on page 90.*

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89263841824?pwd=eIVDSVVUMHZZeStlZIBLeEZjWVBVZz09>

Meeting ID: 892 6384 1824 | **Passcode:** Book Club

Phone: (312) 626 6799 US | **Passcode:** 410992587

Alzheimer's News January 2021

A common type 2 diabetes drug called metformin may have an unexpected, but positive, side effect: new research suggests that people taking the drug appear to have significantly slower declines in thinking and memory as they age.

“Our six-year study of older Australians with type 2 diabetes has uncovered a link between metformin use and slower cognitive (mental) decline and lower dementia rates,” said study author Dr. Katherine Samaras. She’s the leader of the healthy aging research theme at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research in New South Wales, Australia.

“The findings provide new hope for a means of reducing the risk of dementia in individuals with type 2 diabetes and potentially those without diabetes,” Samaras said.

You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer’s Helpline is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master’s level clinicians to assist with crisis situation, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and support are also available in Spanish.

Prayer List

as of January 6, 2021

Celebrations

All the acts of kindness that are happening near and far!

The momentum toward justice and equity.

The Lyons Family (Brad, Zoe, Summer and Blake) on Brad's engagement to Courtney.

Concerns

Jim & Polly Winkelmann - as he home after a few weeks in a rehab hospital, healing after a stroke. Encouragement welcome!

1504 Wolf Trail Rd; Wildwood, MO 63021; 314-610-3348 (Jim's cell).

Jim - COVID-19; home from hospital; on oxygen (Jean Mueller's son).

Joan Biest - grieving and giving thanks for her best friend.

Howard - healing after quadruple bypass surgery (Gerry Rogers' cousin)

John - fighting Covid, currently at home (Luedloff and Tossing).

Tom - healing from fusion of vertebrae (Kathleen Tarr's nephew).

Anne Brodgerski - nearing the end of her life (Svenson).

Alice - healing after spinal fusion (sister of Ellie Svenson).

Carolyn & Hank Kraichley - serious health challenges (McKenzie).

The people of Nashville, Tennessee.

Healthcare workers, homeless and many others at risk right now.

Physical Distancing... if anyone needs groceries, medicine and/or other support, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629

People who are struggling with their mental health.

People who aren't feeling safe at home but are remaining there.

Individuals in all levels of leadership as they make decisions today.

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Continuing

All individuals and families who are grieving into 2021.

Cherie & Mike Stolze - her health; her father's kidney disease.

Nelson Spencer - very serious heart condition (Ellie Svenson).

Blake - recent cancer diagnosis (Greg Schmelig).

Lori Connors - for strength, stamina through some health challenges.

Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxon - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Anthony - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

Gary - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability (McKenzie).

Grateful Tran - on parole at half-way house nearer family, learning new life skills, struggling with schizophrenia (Evelyn Buretta).

Bob - continues to struggle with Parkinson's (McKenzie).

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

The extended Eggebrecht Family - healing and wholeness.

Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

Millicent Guerri - living with cancer... 14300 Conway Meadows Ct E, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: December 5]

Marv Herpel - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

Pat Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #325; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: September 21]

Bill Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr, #104; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: March 8]

Pearl Sellenriek - *Friendship Village Memory Care Division* #1001; 15250 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: March 31]

Sue Houser - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B; Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

Other

President Trump, Congress, all local, national, world leaders - those continuing, starting, returning to leadership... including **Biden|Harris**.
The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

All people who live with mental illness.

PUCC Family (and others) struggling with healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Variety of Parkway members/friends - employment issues.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending January 10 – **Brentwood Congregational UCC**;
<https://www.faithstreet.com/church/brentwood-congregational-church-saint-louis-mo>

Week ending January 17 - **Interfaith Partnership of St. Louis**;
interfaithstl.org (Kevin is the MMS Conference UCC representative to IP)

Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis is a collaborative organization open to people of all religions in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Our Mission Statement is: Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis deepens understanding, respect and appreciation among all persons across lines of religious difference.

Our Motto is: As communities of faith, we agree to differ, promise to love, and unite to serve.

We strive to be a leading, trusted source of all things interfaith in the St. Louis area. Not only do we create our own programs, but we also support, resource and promote St. Louis' interfaith events and programs that move us toward greater understanding and peace.

Awareness of Divinity – Access to our Inner Well.
Immersion in water – Immersion in the Earth's life.

William L Wallace

Thoughts for reflection:

The descent into the waters of our spirit is a journey into the presence of divinity.

Through immersion in the waters of life there comes the realization that to be a child of earth is to be a child of God.

Cleansing is not so much a harsh purification as an acceptance of God's ever available forgiveness.

To be immersed in the waters of our own Jordan River, is to be immersed in the earth, in our own history, in the cultures of the earth and in the mystery itself.

The awareness of the destructive potential of our immaturities goes hand in hand with awareness of divinity.

The primary water of baptism is the life-giving water of our Inner Christ, source of limitless sustenance for our journey.

We are not liberated solely by the experience of divinity but by the reflective action which should follow.

Let the gift flow, let the fire burn, let the awareness become.

The spirit breathes in the wind and abides in the flowing.

There is no immersion into the heart of God without immersion into the life of the world; for the life of the world is contained within the heart of God.

Immersion in the telling of our own story is one of the most powerful ways of becoming aware of the Inner Christ, the I AM.

The telling of our story makes us aware of inner strength in the face of difficulty and of the reality of our own Spirituality.

The tears of joy and the tears of pain come from the same river of life.

All human beings are children of God, but not all live in the awareness that there is that of God within them.

How happy are those who are aware;

for their spirits shall be filled with the life of the universe.

Awareness of divinity leads us into the desert where we are confronted with our need to do business with our shadow in all its complexity.

Prayer:

O God of the waters, as Jesus Christ descended into the waters of Jordan, help us to become immersed in the waters of nature and the waters of the Spirit, that as your children we may see you in all things. Amen.

The Baptism of Christ

January 10, 2021

First Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:4-11

Defining Moments

A rite of passage is a defining moment. Standing in the moment between two ages or phases of life, a rite of passage defines both who we were before the ritual and who we will become after it is completed. Anthropologists and theologians both know that we need rites of passage not only to know who we are individually but also to know who we are as part of our community. Without rites of passage, we cease to have these vital markers of our self and communal definition.

Baptism is a rite of passage for us, as it was for Jesus. Jesus goes to the river Jordan, where his cousin John is baptizing and calling for repentance or turning from sin. In the hundreds of pieces of art depicting this scene, we most often see Jesus alone with John - and sometimes the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. But Jesus was hardly alone. The scripture tells us that *everyone* in Jerusalem was there, along with many from the countryside. There would have been a giant crowd with Jesus, to take part in and witness this important rite of passage.

Many cultures and religions, including the Judaism of John and Jesus' time had a ritual of washing. Jesus' baptism was an evolution of that ancient rite. It was not meant to replace the old ritual, but the meaning shifted to accommodate new understandings about God, society, and individuals.

Think about the rites of passage in your own life. Consider the times when you made a change from one stage or age to another. Who was there to witness and to participate? How did the presence of the wider community help you feel God's presence? In our changing time, how have new rites of passage grown out of old ones?