

A close-up photograph of a person's lower legs and feet. They are wearing blue denim jeans with the cuffs rolled up, revealing white socks. They are also wearing brown leather work boots with laces. The person is standing on a ground covered with dry, brown leaves. The background is blurred, showing more of the ground and some green foliage.

THE CALL OF YOUR BOOTS...



PARKWAY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, January 22, 2023

Contents

- 3 Birthdays
- 4 10:00am Worship
- Announcements
- Prayer List

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

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Linda Tossing, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Office Administrator* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors, *Nursery* [juliestl1992@yahoo.com]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer’s Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning. If you are with us virtually, 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 work and join in prayer.

Scripture Reader: Dawn Jones-Goldstein

Today's Flowers: Cindy Wessel in memory of Tyler on his birthday

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

All word and service music reprint permission covered under CLLI License #2464265; CLLI Streaming License #21357331

Photos/Videos: Please be aware that our worship services are video recorded, streamed live on Facebook Live, and made available for later viewing through that service.

Photos should generally not be taken of children in church except as part of organized activities and programs, and any requests of children or their parents or guardians should be respected. Please be respectful of privacy and mindful that this is a safe and sacred space for all who enter.

Media uploads: <https://tinyurl.com/PUCCmedia>

Mental Health Support

988 (new nationwide 3-digit number similar to 911... call or text)

24/7 Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255 (TALK) | 800-SUICIDE: 800-784-2433

24/7 Missouri Department of Mental Health 800-811-4760

Text 741741 and someone will text right back...www.crisistextline.org

Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713

Anniversaries

1/26 SABLEMAN, Mark & Lynn (38)

1/28 SCALION, Karen & Mike (16)

Birthdays

1/23 WOLFF, Scott

1/26 BURETTA, Evelyn

1/24 RISTAU, Evan

1/27 DOTY, Grant

1/24 SCHRENKER, Cheryl

3rd Sunday *after* Epiphany

Sunday, January 22, 2023 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *I can't pretend to know what will happen. But I've been called: I've got to go. You know what that's like. You answered the call of your boots.* ~Rachel Hartman

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 *Andante in F Major*—L. Neidermeyer (1802-1861)

Choral Introit *Walk in the Light (of Jesus)*—Ellen Purchase

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Sanctuary #2164*

Lord, pre- pare me to be a sanc- tu - ar - y, pure and
Lord, pre- pare me to be your lov - ing e - cho, kind and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks- giv - ing, I'll be a
gen - tle, tried and true. With thanks- giv - ing, I'll be a
liv - ing sanc- tu - ar - y for you.
liv - ing sanc- tu - ar - y for you.

Scripture Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (NRSV—New Revised Standard Version)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in God's temple. For God will hide me in shelter in the day of trouble; God will conceal me under the cover of tent; God will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in God's tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! “Come,” my heart says, “seek God's face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

***Call to Worship** Heather Pencavel

One: Open our eyes, ever-present God, to see you here and now

Many: in this place and in one another.

One: Open our ears, Word of Life, to hear you speaking

Many: in the words we hear, say and sing...and in the silence.

One: Open our hearts, transforming Spirit, to change and renewal in each of us

Many: in our lives together and in our witness to the world.

One: Already, God of extravagant generosity, you have opened your hands and poured out your life for us;

Many: open our minds to your greatness and our lives to your service.

All: Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore* NCH#173

1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly
trea - sure nor weap - ons for con - quest, Just these my
(Refrain)
ask - ing for me to fol - low, O
fish - nets and will for work - ing.
Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;
kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.



3. You need my hands, my ex-haus-tion,
work-ing love for the rest of the
wea-ry—
A love that's will-ing to go on lov-ing.
Refrain

4. You who have fished oth-er wa-ters;
you, the long-ing of souls that are
yearn-ing:
As lov-ing Friend, you have come
to call me.
Refrain

***Opening Prayer** UCC Worship Ways

Holy One, to the revelation and the wonder, open us. With the vision and the possibility, convict us. For the recognizing and the following, equip us. In the struggle and the seeking, be with us. In the joys and the salves, refresh us. Holy One, manifest your love, make your justice known in, among and through us. 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 are invited to Room 12 (Lower Level) and Youth to Room 15 (Lower Level) following this Children's Time. Please meet your child/youth in the Gathering Space just outside the Sanctuary after worship - as the teachers will bring them there after class.

Blessing the Children *Weave*

**Weave, weave, weave us together
Weave us together in unity and love,
Weave, weave, weave us together
Weave us together, together in love.**

Scripture Matthew 4:12-23 (CEB – Common English Bible)

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who lived in the dark have seen a great

light, and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.

From that time Jesus began to announce, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!”

As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

Call to Prayer *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart #326, v3-4*



1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2. Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
3. Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh;
4. Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love,



Wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
Teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;



Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as Thou art,
I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.
To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,



And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!
Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame.

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.]

Offering Our Gifts to God

If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate on the communion table before the end of the closing hymn. There are also offering plates in the Gathering Space just outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity.

Offering Interlude *Come and Follow*—Don Francisco

Me and Andrew, we'd been fishin'
For the best part of last night;
We caught nothin' for all our tryin',
Come the mornin' and the light;
Then I saw Him, and He asked me
To take Him out a little ways from the land;
He was teachin' all the people,
They listened there in silence on the sand.

CHORUS:

Come and follow, come and follow, come and follow,
Come and follow me.
Come and follow, come and follow, come and follow,
Come and follow me. (...follow me ... follow me)

When He'd ended all His teaching,
He turned around and spoke again to me.
He said 'Simon, row out farther,
Drop your nets once again into the sea.'
I said 'Master, we've been workin'
Since the sundown yesterday,
But one more time I'll throw them over,
Just because it's you who says...' (Chorus)

James and John, they're both my witnesses
To the truth in what I've told;
How our nets were filled to bursting,
More than both our boats could ever hold.*
And I fell down there before Him'
Crying 'Leave me Lord, I'm weak and dim!'
He said 'Simon, don't be frightened,
See those people? You will fish for them!' (Chorus)

*Response *The Servant Song* #2222, v1-3



- 1., 6. Broth - er, sis - ter, let me serve you, let me be as
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to - geth - er
3. I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll
5. When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall find such



Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to
on this road. We are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to - geth - er



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, help us to be there for one another—our loved ones and strangers too, as we are all connected. Bring us into places where we can weep and laugh with one another. Make us tender that we can share sorrow and joy together. Gather us that we can serve, receive and be gracious with each other all our days. Amen.

*Song of Parting *The Summons/Will You Come and Follow Me?*



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

Postlude in C — J. Blüed (1844-1884), arr. Carlo Rossini

Announcements

Please use the form at www.parkwayucc.org/communications for all announcements for our media. Bulletin and eNews deadline: noon Monday.

Winter Sunday School

This winter our children will be learning about some of the people who met Jesus. Most of these stories are found in the Gospel of John: Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the first disciples, a blind man, the little boy with fish and bread, and many more.

Youth will be using a new curriculum called “Feasting on the Word”. This curriculum is lectionary based with activities and discussions around topics of interest to youth as they relate to scripture.

Contact Marsha Peek: marshapeek31@gmail.com | (314) 413-1440

TODAY: Listening Session

Sunday, January 22 | 11:15am | Heritage Room and on Zoom.

It has been more than six-months since our beloved Barb Kuhlmann’s untimely death. We continue to grieve and give thanks for her. *It’s still so hard to believe she is gone.*

We are grateful for all of the people who have stepped up to help do the things that Barb did around here. Marsha Peek’s incredible gifts of organizing and shepherding have been amazing. Our children and youth are in very good hands.

As we ponder where to go from here regarding church staff, our Church Council has been in conversation these months – including spending time with a consultant, Reverend John Wimberly, who many of you will remember as the person who walked us through the *Vitality Project* a few years ago. One of the things he suggested several years ago was not to rush into filling a staff vacancy once one arises. Instead, he urged us to stop, breathe and discern what the church needs next – rather than simply finding another person to fill the same role and job description.

We will continue to be in discernment about who we are as a church today and who God is calling us to be next. We are pondering what sort of additional staff person(s), contractor(s), or uses of resources, can best help us in today’s environment to be more faithful and effective in our mission and ministries.

We need your input! We will host a *Listening Session* after worship today.

A few questions to ask yourself now –

- * *What do we want to provide for our children, youth, families and adults?*
- * *How can we be more engaged in loving and serving the world around us – near and far?*
- * *How are we unique/distinct from other churches in the area and other churches you may have been to in the past or recently?*
- * *What do we need to make a priority in the next 2-3 years?*
- * *What do we want our young people to say about their experiences at PUCC when they are coming into adulthood?*

- * Do you envision adding one person to our staff or 2-3 people who could each bring varied expertise to the team and faith community?
- * What do we do with some of our time and resources that we might want to stop doing?
- * What piece(s) of our history should continue to guide us?

Questions? Feel free to contact Council President Linda Tossing (ltossing@att.net) or Kevin Cameron (kevin@parkwayucc.org) or anyone from our Church Council – Lana Biondo, Deb Carter, Lisa Davidson, Kris Impastato, Tom McKenzie, Mark Sableman.

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHV1IyQT09>

Meeting ID: 8469147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

Tuesday Evening Dialogue January 24

2nd & 4th Tuesdays | 6:00pm potluck | 7:00pm book discussion | Heritage Rm
Please join us for Potluck and Book Discussion of the second half of Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. This will cover Chapter 21 to the end of the book. We will also be choosing our next book selection that evening. Newcomers always welcome! Contact Helen Race: raceh@att.net

Tuesday Afternoon Dialogue thru March 7

1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 2:00-3:00pm | Zoom only
TAD's current book is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict continues on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays until March 7. Historical fiction, it's the remarkable story of J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Bella da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation. Contact Jackie Eiffert: jeiffert2@gmail.com | (661) 378-6781

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURYWURLNmkwD0EzV0VHV1IyQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 7061 7428 | **Passcode:** 480007 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Budget Meeting after worship on Sunday, February 5.

Ice Skating at Queeny Park in Ballwin Sunday, February 5 from 3-4:30pm

Chili Cook-off & Brownie Bake-off for Summer Mission Trip – Sunday, March 5 after worship

We are looking for someone to organize a team to coordinate the Community Easter Egg Hunt this spring. Interested? Questions? kevin@parkwayucc.org

Liturgical Composers Concert: *Where Your Treasure Is*

Thursday, January 26, 7:00-8:30 at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, 2039 N. Geyer Road, Frontenac, MO. \$25 general admission; \$50 preferred seating. Info and ticket purchase at: www.mercycenterstl.org

Come and enjoy an evening of music and song. Sing with the composers who wrote some of your favorite songs for the Mass.

Liberating Word

Something recently reminded me of a story I read years ago. It seems a duke and duchess went for a stroll one evening around their large and lavish estate. They noticed a man standing alone in their beautiful garden.

"Who is that man?" the duchess asked. "He is always there but I don't know who he is."

"I've seen him too," replied the duke, "but I have no idea. Let's find out."

With that, they walked over and said to the fellow, "Excuse me, but who are you? Do you work for us? Are you part of our staff?"

"Oh yes, my Lady," said the man. "I have been your faithful servant for almost 30 years."

"Thirty years? Oh my! And what is your specific job" she asked.

"I was hired to walk your dog, my Lady."

"Wait a minute," exclaimed the duchess. "My dog died 27 years ago."

To which the man replied, "Yes, my Lady, that is correct. And what would you like for me to do now?"

I've often wondered if God might not feel a bit like the duchess must have at that moment. God has called us to be partners in the redemption of the earth, and many of us have been in God's service for decades, though, by and large, we still live as if we are waiting to be told what to do now.

The prophet Micah wrote, "God has shown you O mortal what is good, and what does our God require of you, but to do justice, love mercifully, and walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

While we may be waiting to hear what God wants us to do with our lives, it may well be God is waiting for us to do what we already have been told is "good and required of us." How are you doing with that?

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Michael Piazza

Rev. Piazza is a nationally-known author, activist, and church growth consultant.

He is the founder and president of Agile Church Consulting and the senior pastor of Arlington Congregational Church in Jacksonville, Florida. You can follow him on Facebook and Twitter.

Prayer List

as of January 18, 2023

Celebrations

Kristin Nolte & Brandon Edwards - preparing to welcome 1st baby!

Barb Harris - welcoming great-granddaughter Liliana Terese Harris!

Lillie Jane Olive Sableman born to Paul & Shantel on 01/05/23!

All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far.

Concerns

Gail Haack - scheduling biopsy for sinus cyst... then surgery.

Marion Pleis - back at Cape Albeon after hip surgery & rehab... also grieving two deaths this week -- two sisters-in-law of Marion.

Schulenburgs - Kaylyn & David's Milo William born 11-30 is in NICU. He is making strides: up to 3.5lbs

Barb Kuhlmann's Dad - undergoing medical tests; marking her 1/12 Bday.

Matt Albers - chemo 2nd round next week (Lori Connors' friend's son).

Theresa - surgery/treatment/recovery - aggressive cancer (Schwarz)

Josh - healing after recent bone marrow transplant (Tarr).

Anne Kloeckener - heart surgery on Monday. January 16 (Connors).

All impacted by Covid-19.

The continuing war in Ukraine.

Continuing

Edwin & Maria - his cancer returned; thought he was cured (Runtz).

Angie - recent diagnosis of stage 2 Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Rosenberger).

Gail, Bill and Christopher Haack - chronic health challenges.

Patty - doing ok in hospice care; grieving mother's death (Pleis/Eiffert).

Jackie - special needs adult battling Parkinson's, cancer, dementia.

Sharon - variety of health challenges (Rogers).

Sue Linson - recently diagnosed with leukemia (McKenzie).

Mary Beth Anderson - health challenges; apt break-in (Brueggemann)

Brooke - that she would find love and start a family of her own.

Val - strength and patience (Jim Winkelmann's 101 year-old mother).

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

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Lizzie - awaiting liver transplant (niece of Barb Kuhlmann).

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

Gary - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability.

Home-Centered/Care Facility/Rehab Center

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

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

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]

John Nourse *The Village at Cape Albeon*; 3300 Lake Bend Dr, #166; Valley Park, MO 63088 [birthdate: October 26]

Ruth Peace - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-0253; meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: August 8]

Naomi Runtz - 272 N Lindbergh Blvd; StL MO 63141; 34-993-0469 naomiruntz@sbcglobal.net [birthdate: August 30]

Gladys Sims - *Friendship Village - 15200 Village View Dr, #2418*; Chesterfield, MO 63017; 636-898-8873 [birthdate: July 4]

David Smith - *Anthology of Town & Country*; 1020 Woods Mill Rd; #310; St Louis, MO 63017; 636-200-5076 [birthdate: July 24]
(Father of Deb Carter).

Pinky Wilcoxen - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-0253; meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: April 7]

Dick Witte - *Meramec Bluffs Assisted Living*; 40 Meramec Trails Dr; Apt #104; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-368-7324 [birthdate: March 25]

Other

Pres Biden, VP Harris, Congress, all local, national, world leaders.

The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

All people who live with mental illness & those dealing with meds.

Caregivers of all shapes and sizes.

PUCC Family struggling with employment; healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Gun violence and other violence across the US and other lands.

Conversations about the Death Penalty in the United States.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Peace and Justice near and far

US Military around the globe.

3rd Sunday *after* Epiphany

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Matthew 4:12-23 ***Called Together***

Wonderful Creator, In the beginning you made the world – rocks and trees, water and animals. You created, and you looked on your creation and called it good. Good, you decided, but not complete. And so you created us. You made people. You created us to be beautifully diverse – with many colors of skin, many levels of ability, many shapes and sizes. In our diversity, you also created us with a common longing – to love and be loved, to grow and thrive, to live lives of meaning and purpose.

Brother Christ, You came to earth to show us how to be both fully human and completely divine. You loved and cried, taught and touched, died and rose again. By your healing touch, you brought others close to you and to your heavenly Parent. You modeled for us how to live lives of sacrifice and service, how to be healers of the ills of body and mind. You encouraged us to be bringers of hope to all we encounter.

Holy Spirit, You are the Advocate. You accompany us day by day, hour by hour, breath by breath. You are the challenger, the encourager and the sustainer. You impel us toward places of need and longing in your world and infuse us with the desire to be your people. You lift us, giving us energy when our own spirits flag. And you promise to remain with us, no matter what.

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer; you are both one and three. You are both distinct and in relationship. As neither one part of your divine being is complete without the others, so we are called to lives of radical interconnectivity. Create in us a desire to bring hope and healing to all we encounter. In your many powerful names we pray, Amen.