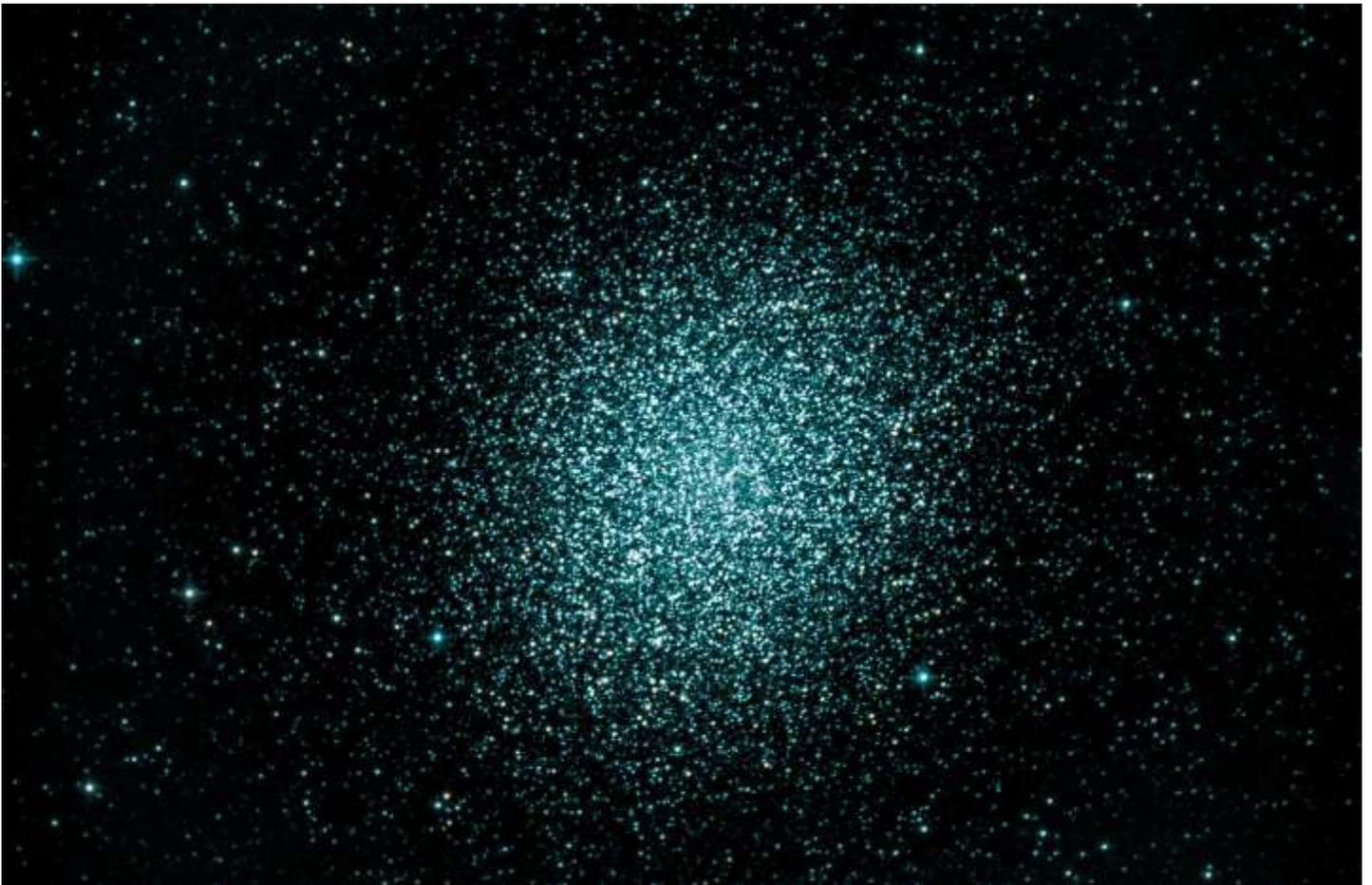


**Congregational Church of Birmingham
United Church of Christ**

A Just World for All



**Sunday
January 10, 2021
10:00 AM**

You May Contact Rev. Ott for any pastoral request or emergency at 989-245-0092 or REVLRO@aol.com.

Prayer Request? Email Rev. Ott (REVLRO@aol.com) or the church office (ccbinfo@ccbucc.org) to have prayers included in the Sunday prayer time and the Weekly Prayers email.

Are You in the Loop? Stay current on all CCB news. Contact the church office to receive our email communications.

View Sunday Worship Broadcasts and previously recorded services on the "Congregational Church of Birmingham, United Church of Christ" YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwfTgUDxKOY9u4KkZbExhpw>

WORSHIP GUIDE (**Bold** indicates in unison.)

PRELUDE "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Richardson

BE WELCOMED Pastor Louise
Welcome to Epiphany Sunday! The season of discovery, of surprise, of a journey. By calendar, Epiphany is the 6th of January, the 12th day of Christmas, the day when our Eastern Orthodox siblings celebrate their Christmas Day. Friends known and unknown, we are still the Congregational Church of Birmingham United Church of Christ, and I am your pastor, Louise Ott. Today our guest preacher, Rev. Greg Larsen, is the interim pastor serving Salem UCC in Farmington. So with our goals of courage, humility & belonging, let's be on the journey!

BE IN THE MOMENT Pastor Louise
The journey of the Christian year is cyclical. Just like the 4 seasons of our climate, the seasons of the Christian year repeat over 12 months. But the Christian year always begins in Advent, continues to celebrate Christmas, and then arrives in Epiphany. At Epiphany we celebrate how the light of God leads us to new discoveries. The magi embody that journey as they follow the star in the sky and the ancient prophecies. We too follow the Light of God's wisdom that we may have an "aha" for the living of our days in our efforts to build community, be antiracist, and be patient during a pandemic.

One symbol of this cyclical journey is the labyrinth. The labyrinth is not a maze because you cannot get lost. There is one way in and one way out. For thousands of years people of faith have walked as a spiritual practice. We walk the labyrinth alone, but we walk in the footsteps of those who have sought God as their companion. In a time when we cannot hold hands this symbol connects us to the feet of others who look for wisdom, for insight, for awakening on the journey of life. Let's travel with the magi that God may "guide us to the perfect light."

OPENING SONG

"We Three Kings"

Sing Along

(stanzas 2-5, refrain after 2 & 5 only)

[CH #172]

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.**

**Oh star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

**Glorious now behold him arise;
Christ and God and sacrifice:
alleluia, alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.**

**Oh star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

Matthew 2:1-12 CEB

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ²They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

³When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶*"You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel."*^[a]

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

BE WITH CHILDREN

Dr. Carmel Tinnes,
Director of Christian Education

ONE: Loving God, thank you that we know that each one of us is more valuable than gold to you.

ALL: Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

ONE: Let our prayers be as sweet as incense as you hear our words.

ALL: Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

ONE: Heal us from all that keeps us from you and from one another.

ALL: Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

ONE: And let all God's people say and sign:

ALL: AMEN.

BE IN CONVERSATION

Rev. Greg Larsen & People

"Defining Moments"

CALL TO PRAYER

"Make Me a Servant"

Sing Along

[FWS #2176]

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
make me a servant today.**

CCLI #741179

BE IN PRAYER

Pastor Louise

God of all journeys,
guide our feet on the path
and our hearts in the search for you.
Where the ancients have walked and found new discoveries
put us where your Spirit leads.
May we not fear the powers of evil
but stand with courage.
May we keep humility in our relationships
and bridge the divisions.
May your Light guide us to the boundless belonging
of being kin with you and all creation.
Now we walk the path of prayer
taught to us by Jesus saying,

THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER OF JESUS

Pastor & People

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

We continue to pray for:

- All persons at risk in contracting COVID-19
- Annabelle, Cindy Kyle's mother, recovering from oral surgery
- Educators in pandemic challenges
- Helen, Heather Schulz's mom, recovering from cancer surgery
- Jean, Cindy Hill's mother, experiencing compounding challenges
- Kevin Wilson, grieving the death of his father, Neal
- Melissa and Calliope Crook, to be reunited permanently
- Rob, Sue Potter's brother, with metastasized cancer in his bones
- Ruth Biersdorf, in treatment for cancer
- Suzy, Pastor Louise's cousin in CA, with advanced lung cancer
- Victims of war, violence, and natural disasters everywhere
- We hold CCB families in supportive prayer, especially working adults with children educating at home
- Youth and adults with mental health challenges

PRAYER RESPONSE "Make Me a Servant"

Sing Along
[FWS #2176]

**Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
make me a servant today.**

CCLI #741179

BE IN THIS TOGETHER

Pastor Louise

Once upon a time,
there was an offering plate,
passed from hand to hand
where giving for the week or the month or the year
was gratefully received.
But for this chapter of church
we click on our church website,

set up automatic transfers from bank accounts,
or write a monthly check.

Regardless, giving is always a ritual,
a reminder of that form of love we call generosity,
responding to God's call and being on the journey.

Each step brings us closer to the Light of God,
the realm of love.

No matter how we give,
may our commitments make us servants,
pilgrims, wise ones seeking God together!

To give electronically go to the "Donate" link at www.ccbucc.org, log in and donate to whatever fund you choose – Giving Commitments, the five UCC Offerings, other Outreach partners, and more! Please contact Lynn Wilsher, Treasurer, at treasurerccb@gmail.com, if you have questions.

CLOSING SONG

"Arise, Your Light Has Come"

Sing Along

[NCH #164]

**Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.**

CCLI #741179

BE BLESSED ON THE PATH

Pastor Louise

As you put your feet to the path
know that you do not journey alone.
Look up and out and see the stars in the sky,
the stars in the eyes of people.
Find courage in the solidarity of God's guiding Spirit.
Walk on in the Light to find Courage, know Humility,
and invite Belonging into your life and the lives of others!
God's guiding light is blessing us all to be a blessing! Amen

POSTLUDE

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Thomerson,
arr. Hayes

Credits: Worship design and liturgy adapted from Worship Design Studio
www.worshipdesignstudio.com. Used with permission. CCLI #741179

WE THANK our readers, guest preacher, Tech Team: Gabriel White-Vega and Chris Hiner, Worship Design Team: Leslie O'Day-Benyo and Elaine Winter, Joe Bentley, and Marina Stojanovska, for all their help with today's service.

OUR MINISTRY UPDATES

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US IN THE ZOOM SOCIAL HOUR TODAY after worship when our Future Church consultant, **Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon, will be with us** to lead a conversation about our critical values. Let's speak aloud our often implicit but strongly held beliefs that are so important to who we are as CCB members and friends.

SUNDAY MORNING INFO WITH ZOOM & YOU TUBE LINKS! Check your email for the Weekly E-Update, sent out each Friday with important information and all the up-to-date Zoom and YouTube links for the Sunday Worship Service and Social Hour.

CALL TO MEETING: A Congregational Meeting will be convened via Zoom immediately following worship at 11:15 AM next Sunday, January 17, to address the **2021 Funding for Ministry Plan**. The 2021 Funding Plan with Historical Data, and a Plan Background Narrative prepared by Funding for Ministry, have been distributed for your review via links in last Friday's Weekly E-Update MailChimp email. The Zoom meeting link was included.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to vote by Proxy/ Absentee Ballot, a link to that form was also included in the MailChimp. Please follow the instructions noted on the form to complete and return it to me by 9:00 AM on Sunday, January 17, 2021.

Thank you!

Steve Payer, Moderator

WINTER PLAY SPACE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL: With the colder weather, your children may need a safe place to run and play. We invite you to call Beth in the office (248-646-4511, M-F, 9AM-3PM) to schedule a day/time to come play in Fellowship Hall. Times must be reserved in advance to ensure building accessibility and avoid usage conflicts. Carmel has assembled an assortment of gross motor safe toys that are stored on the stage for easy access. Face masks are required, and we ask that you put the toys away before you leave.

WATER COLLECTION: Help those without access to safe water to wash, clean, and combat the spread of the coronavirus. Donate by credit card on Greg Panzica's website: www.PeaceNick.org, OR send a check to CCB with "People's Water Board" on the memo line, OR send checks directly to: People's Water Board Coalition, c/o GDABVI, 16625 Grand River Ave, Detroit, MI 48227. Track water donations at: <http://peacenick.org/cgi-bin/index.pl?fs=4&init=1> Questions? Greg Panzica (313-215-5767) or Paul von Oeyen (248-891-7509).



2021
Get Ready for Epiphany!
Watch Some Movies!



Movies Starring:

Courage, Humility & Belonging!

1-17-21 > Just Mercy (Be There)

1-24-21 > A Bug's Life (Be Family)

1-31-21 > Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society (Be Known)

2-07-21 > Rosewood (Be Brave)

2-14-21 > March of the Penguins (Be Together)

Why pollute our worship of God with secular movies? Well, first, there is no such thing as secular. For those of us who seek to see the world with God's eyes, all of life is sacred. In the best of our movie productions, there are glimpses of grace, messages of inspiration, and transformation to be found for ourselves and our world. As we pursue the "AHA" of Epiphany season, during the lock-down reality of living through a pandemic, let's watch for courage, humility, and belonging. Stories can bring us closer to God. This was Jesus' way of teaching. "The kingdom of God is like...a parent, a child, a shepherd, a landowner..." Let's look for God's justice and loving inclusion through stories of courage, humility and belonging.

We are letting you know early what movies we will discuss in the next 8 weeks, just in case you want to get a head and start watching. Some are appropriate for children and some are not. These films will also be the launching points for our weekly adult education sessions on Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM, resuming on January 19 and ending on February 16.

Why these movies? They all demonstrate the values of courage, humility, and belonging. As a congregation seeking to be anti-racist, we chose Just Mercy, A Bug's Life, and Rosewood. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society pulls us into our personal and communal depths while March of the Penguins embraces the greater community of God's whole creation.

Questions?

Pastor Louise revlro@aol.com

Dr. Carmel carmelf711@yahoo.com

What's Happening @ CCB-UCC This Week

Bold indicates CCB and/or UCC related event. Regular font indicates outside usage.

<u>Sunday</u> <u>1/10/21</u>	9:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Sunday School with Carmel (Zoom) Worship (YouTube) Social Hour with "Future Church" Values Conversation (Zoom)
<u>Monday</u> <u>1/11/21</u>	7:00 AM 12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Sober Morning AA (AR) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH) Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
<u>Tuesday</u> <u>1/12/21</u>	7:00 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM	Sober Morning AA (AR) Staff Meeting (Zoom) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH)
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>1/13/21</u>	7:00 AM 12:00 PM	Sober Morning AA (AR) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH)
<u>Thursday</u> <u>1/14/21</u>	7:00 AM 12:00 PM 7:15 PM	Sober Morning AA (AR) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH) Vision Circle Meeting (Zoom)
<u>Friday</u> <u>1/15/21</u>	7:00 AM 12:00 PM 2:00 PM	Sober Morning AA (AR) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH) Family Farms Cooperative (FH)
<u>Saturday - 1/16/21</u>		Nothing Today
<u>Sunday</u> <u>1/17/21</u>	9:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM	Sunday School with Carmel (Zoom) Worship (YouTube) 2021 Congregational Funding Plan Meeting & Vote (Zoom)
<u>Monday</u> <u>1/18/21</u>	MLK, Jr. Holiday – Church Office Closed 7:00 AM 12:00 PM	Sober Morning AA (AR) New Beginnings of B.H. AA (AR & FH)

The complete church calendar is on our website: www.ccbucc.org.

A Just World for All

Epiphany Sunday.....January 10, 2021

Welcome to CCB-UCC an "Open and Affirming" Church

We warmly welcome everyone to worship and into the full life and leadership of the church. Whatever your background - your race, your nationality, your physical or mental condition, your gender, your sexual orientation - whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you in love as Jesus Christ welcomes all. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, may the comfort and challenge of God's presence renew and inspire us all throughout the coming week. Again, welcome!



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Contact a Stephen Minister Leader:

Dr. Paul von Oeyen 248-646-0837

Rev. Louise R. Ott 989-245-0092

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM

1000 CRANBROOK ROAD (@ WOODWARD AVE)
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48304-2725



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

PHONE: 248-646-4511

EMAIL: ccbinfo@ccbucc.org

CCB WEBSITE: www.ccbucc.org

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE WEBSITE: www.michucc.org

DENOMINATIONAL WEBSITE: www.ucc.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Ministers - The Congregation

Carmel Tinnes, Director of Christian Education

Marina Stojanovska, Substitute Accompanist

Office Hours: Open Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, lunch break 12:30 PM-1:00 PM

Rev. Louise R. Ott, Pastor

Joe Bentley, Interim Choral Director

Beth Prevost, Church Administrator