



1st Sunday of Epiphany

January 17, 2021

2:00 PM

Call to Worship

Psalm 139 Adapted

One: O Lord, you have searched us and known us.

All: You know when we sit down and when we rise up; you discern our thoughts from far away.

One: You search out our journeys and places of rest, and are acquainted with all our ways.

All: Even before a word is on our tongues, O Lord, you know it completely.

One: You hem us in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon us.

All: Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is so high that we cannot attain it.

One: For it was you who formed our inward parts; you knit us together in our mothers' wombs.

All: Our frames were not hidden from you, when we were being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

One: Your eyes beheld our unformed substance.

All: In your book were written all the days that were formed for us, when none of us as yet existed.

One: We praise you, for we are each fearfully and wonderfully made.

All: Wonderful are your works; that we know very well.

One: How weighty to us are your thoughts, O God!

All: How vast is the sum of them!

One: We try to count them—they are more than the sand!

All: We come to the end—we are still with you.

One: So may it be as we proclaim to one another, "The peace of God be with you."

All: And also with you.

Prayer of Confession(in unison)

Gathering God, call us and commission us for the doing of Your good will, the living out of Your

love. We pray this knowing that many other voices call us, many other agendas beckon us to follow. Grant that our devotion might find its origin and aim in You.

Grant us also the faith that your truth can withstand our scrutiny. We can examine Your ways of expressing truth to us, study and probe Your way of enlightening our thinking. You, who comes to us in mystery, can withstand our demystifying. Indeed, our skepticism might be our most powerful tool for striking upon true faith.

Bless us, then, to spend this hour together coming to clear terms of what you call us to follow, and whether it is worthy of our devotion. Bless us that there is no secret here, just the open appeal of love, reality, and truth.

All this we pray, made bold in your son, Jesus Christ, and made powerful by your Holy Spirit, who together search us, know us, love us, and call us to speak of and live out our deep faith and high hope. Amen.

Readings 1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:45-51

Anthem *Guide My Feet*

Guide my feet while I run this race (3x) cuz I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand while I run this race (3x) cuz I don't want to run this race in vain.

Bridge.

Be my friend while I run this race (3x) cuz I don't want to run this race in vain.

Bridge.

Guide my feet while I run this race (3x) cuz I don't want to run this race in vain.

Bridge.

Prayer for Illumination

Psalm 19:14

One: May the words of my mouth

All: and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Sermon

Homily of the Pastor

Silence

Homily of the People

Hymn *O Christ Jesus, Sent from Heaven*

Pastoral Prayer

Joys and Concerns

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us pray.

Spoken Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offering Please don't forget to make your offering!
(online or PO Box 183 Monterey 01245).

Announcements

- Monday Book Group, studying the Gospel of Mark.
- Wednesday Bible Study, 11 AM on Zoom.

Benediction

About the Monterey United Church of Christ

First gathered in 1750, the Monterey United Church of Christ, Congregational, in the name of its host, Jesus Christ, welcomes all who seek to know God and invites everyone to join in our common life and mission through participation in this congregation. As Jesus Christ did before us, we affirm that each individual is a child of God, and recognize that we are called to be like one reconciled body with many members, seeking with others of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual identity, and physical or mental ability, to journey together toward the promised realm of God. On the threshold of Christ's open door, we rely upon the healing, unconditional nature of God's love and grace to be our help and guide as we all move forward with the work of this church in the world.



MONTEREY CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

It's Not What You Think

Contact Information: 413-329-3026, liz@goodman.md **Web Address:** Montereychurch.org
Podcast address: Rev. Liz Goodman, Lenox & Monterey **Pastor:** Rev. Liz Goodman

O Christ Jesus, Sent from Heaven

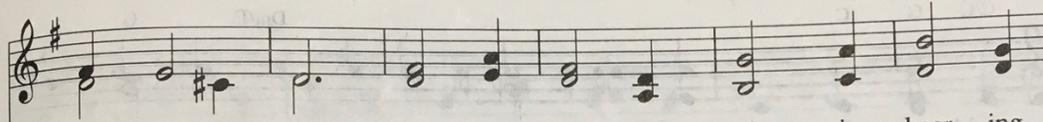
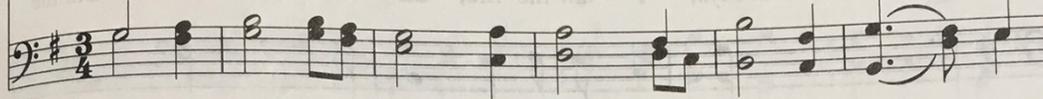
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James W. Crawford, 1994

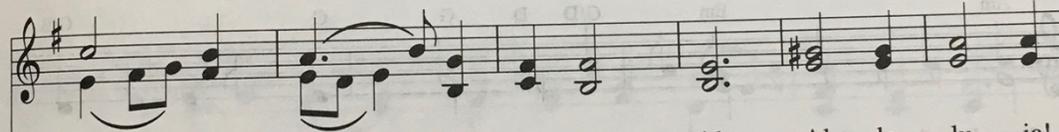
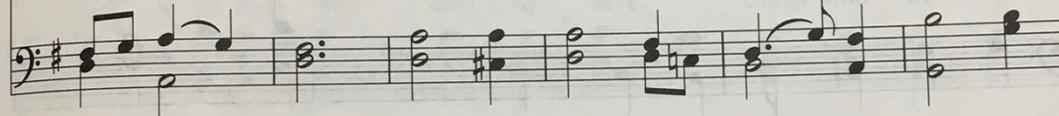
John 17:17-23



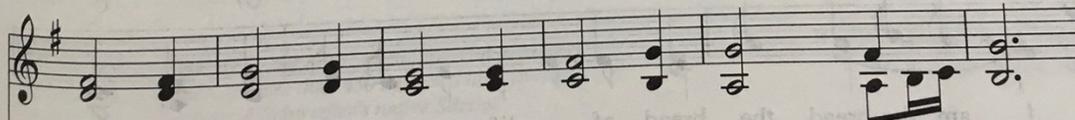
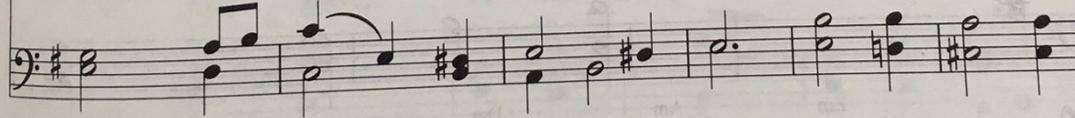
1 O Christ Je - sus, sent from heav-en, Love E - ter - nal,
2 O Christ Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Shep-herd kind, life's
3 O Christ Je - sus, Fa - ther - Moth-er, Spir - it, Tri - une
4 O Christ Je - sus, preached down a - ges, in the womb of



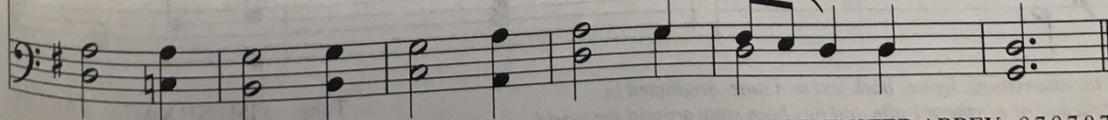
cru - ci - fied, wel - come Sav - ior, mis - sion bear - ing,
Bread and Wine, Word Made Flesh, God's Bless - ed Ser - vant,
Source of all, claim our wound-ed, halt - ing wit - ness;
God be - gun, pray re - store your bro - ken Bod - y,



dwel a - mong us, now re - side. Al - le - lu - ia!
wash - ing feet shows your de - sign. Al - le - lu - ia!
we sur - ren - der to your thrall. Al - le - lu - ia!
born when Cal - vary's work was done. Al - le - lu - ia!



Way of An - guish, sow your peace, with us a - bide.
Liv - ing Wa - ter, slake our hearts with grace di - vine.
Truth In - car - nate, stir us with your ser - vant call.
Life for Oth - ers, hear our plea: "May all be one!"



James W. Crawford served as minister of the Old South Church in Boston for more than twenty years. His text uses imagery from

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Purcell, c. 1680
Arr. Ernest Hawkins. 1842