

the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer"

Hear our prayer, O Lord. hear our prayer, O Lord.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and grant us thy peace.

SERMON

Rev. David A. Jones

OUR OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

"Give Me Jesus"

Mark Hayes

* THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

(using debts and debtors)

* BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

* HYMN #589 (Green Hymnal)

"Here I Am, Lord"

* SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE "More About Jesus"

E. Hewitt/J. Sweney

*Please stand as you are able

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Rev. David A. Jones, Pastor

FAITH-HOPE-LOVE

*There are three things
that will endure and*

LOVE

is the greatest of these

1 Corinthians 13:13



February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Reader: Ken Shultz

God is Still Speaking ...

"The mission of the church is not to enlarge its membership, not to bring outsiders to accept its terms, but simply to love the world in every possible way-to love the world as God did and does...If we are able to love the world, that will be the best demonstration of the truth which the church has been given."

Parker Palmer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "More About Jesus" L. Smith/J. Sweney

* SOLEMN DECLARATION AND SUNG AMEN

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Every day of our journey through life, our hope is in God.
People: God is our rock and refuge: a fortress against danger and humiliation.

Pastor: God has cared for us since our birth.
People: So we are never in the full grasp of the unjust and cruel.

Pastor: Through the power of God's love, we are saved and supported.
People: Trusting in God, we continually offer our praise!

* HYMN #575 (Green Hymnal) "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of deliverance, we confess that we are too reluctant to speak and to live according to your truth. We grow comfortable with the way things are, passively condoning injustice. We see ourselves as "insiders," while we exclude those we consider "outsiders." We find it easier to destroy and overthrow than to build and to plant. Forgive us, O God,

for being timid students of your Word. Empty us of fear and shame, and fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind...

Silent confession...

* KYRIE ELEISON

*Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.*

* WORDS OF GRACE AND MERCY

God has loved us since the beginning, and God's love for us will never end. Therefore, do not fear, but have faith in God's steadfast love, in God's healing power, and in God's ability to make all things new.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Sing Alleluia" Jeff Lippencott
Choir

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INSTALLATION OF DEACONS AND ELDERS (insert)

THE SCRIPTURES (insert)
New Testament 1 Corinthians 13: 1 - 13
*Gospel Luke 4: 21 - 30

* THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

* PROCLAIMING OUR FAITH - THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into Hades;

Installation of Deacons and Elders

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Carol, Todd, Diane, Melissa, and Russ have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Elders and Deacons: I am

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Elders and Deacons: I do, relying on God's grace.

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of its members and asks upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you Carol, Todd, and Diane, for your positions as Elder, and on you Melissa and Russ for your positions as Deacon.

Members of St. Mark's, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of St. Mark's United Church of Christ in Lebanon, I am pleased to announce that you are installed to your positions as Deacon and Elder.

1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

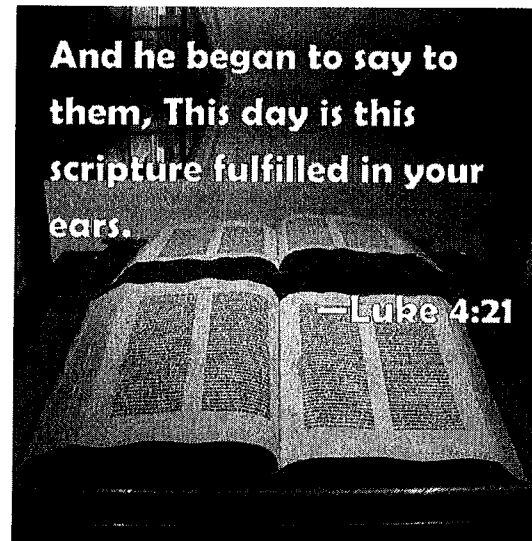
Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Luke 4: 21 – 30

Then Jesus said to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that

came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.



ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST

Andy Shearer
Deb Weise
Lynn Balmer
David Ansalvish (Cindy Johnson's Brother)
Rod Nissley (Deb Ellis' son)
Stephanie Wagner (Faye Fox's niece)
Trudy Berkheimer
Cindy Johnson
Eva Miller
Regine Halsall (Friend of Deb Ellis)
Megan, Jaxon and Ava Tilley
Tony Furman
Larry Houser
Michael Worhach (Russ Scholl's son-in-law)
Nancy Kunkle
Ken & Charlotte Wengert
Andrew Scholl
Alexander Gessner (Glenn Kline's family)
Lauren Hallman (Kids Kamper's Mother)
Ann Crouch (Deb Ellis' friend)
Pat Harmuth (Jill Wenrich's aunt)
Paul & Kay Peiffer
Deb Winslow (Peg Scholl relative)
Tia Carreras (Peg Scholl relative)
Meg Nagel
Lloyd Brown (Ken Brown's brother)
Members from our church family who are shut-in or
home bound
The People around the world living with
the threat of war
and those recovering from natural disasters

ST. MARK'S CALENDAR

For the Week of February 2, 2025

Sunday Choir Practice – 8:30 AM
Worship Service – 10 AM
Nominating Committee Meeting - Conference
Room
Kid's Team/Youth/ Young Adult Bowling –
Palmyra Lanes

Wednesday Bible Study – 10 AM

Love
FAITH. HOPE.
THE *Greatest*
OF THESE IS LOVE.
~1 Cor. 13:13~

ST. MARK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers on the communion table are presented by Ron and Deborah Follett in memory of Ron's mother, Louise Follett.

The bulletins are presented by Lillian Schieber in honor of Pastor Dave and MJ.

Flowers and Bulletins – Dates available for flowers are: February 16 and March 30. Dates available for bulletins are: February 9 and 16, March 9, 16, and 30. Please contact the office if interested in sponsoring any flowers or bulletins.

Roof Repairs – There are envelopes in the narthex labeled "Roof Repairs." We would appreciate your help with this project. As of January 26, we have collected \$29,098.39 towards the roof repairs. Thank you to all who have donated.

Evangelism and Mission

There will be a meeting for the WARM Mission Trip after church on February 9th in Fellowship Hall. Dates for the WARM Mission trip are August 2nd through August 9th. If you can't make the meeting, please let Kathy know.

The next meeting for the Asheville Mission Trip is March 2nd after church in Fellowship Hall. Dates for the Asheville Mission Trip are May 14 - May 18th. We will be working on menu and some more details of the trip.

- Looking for something to do in the winter months? Try jigsaw evangelism. Jigsaw evangelism will continue to be held the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month for January, February and March from 9-11 AM. Light refreshments will be served while we gather each Saturday. You don't need to be an experienced puzzle specialist to participate. This is for ANYONE who likes to dabble in jigsaw puzzles. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex and sign up for the Saturdays you plan to attend. This will aid us in notifying people in case we need to cancel for any reason.

Good Samaritan Committee will be collecting cans of soup for Soup-er Bowl Sunday, which is February 9th. You can place your cans of soup in the grocery cart in narthex.

Music Fair – Presented by the Mission and Ministry Team of the Lancaster Association – UCC. February 2, 2-4 PM at St. John's UCC, 659 S. 4th St., Denver, PA 17517. Enjoy snacks and fellowship at 2 PM. Program will begin at 2:30 PM. This event is free and open to the public. Come celebrate the gift of music in our congregations.

Committee Reports for Yearbook – Please give your committee reports to the office by March 2nd, so that the Annual Yearbook can be completed in March. Thank you.

Save the Dates:

February 9	Souper Bowl Sunday
	WARM NC Mission Trip Meeting
March 5	Ash Wednesday Service – 7:30 PM

Conference Call information:
Dial (215) 383-1625 Enter conference code: 569284
Press* when asked for your attendee pin