

EPIPHANY

The Kin-dom of God: Sisters in the Struggle:

Puah and Shiphrah

January 16, 2022 — 10:00 a.m.



UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JOURNEYING TOGETHER ON GOD'S TRANSFORMATIVE ADVENTURE,  
FOLLOWING THE PATH OF LOVE AND JUSTICE AS REVEALED BY JESUS.

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## WELCOME TO UCUC

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**Grace and peace to you from God who is Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.** Whether you join us this evening believing, seeking or doubting, we welcome you to worship with us. We pray that you will be met here by the living Christ.

### University Congregational UCC shares as our core values:



We are an intergenerational community, committed to being family-friendly



We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all and explicitly honor the belovedness of people that are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and Non-binary.



We are a creation care congregation declaring Earth is Sacred and committed to stopping climate catastrophe.



We are a racial justice congregation, committed to becoming an anti-racist community and working for racial equity in our city, nation, and world.

**As Christians**, we gather here with a lot of different beliefs and theologies. We are a progressive Christian community that honors our diversity. We also find unity in the way we build community together. Our covenant guides this.

**The chancel flowers are given** in loving memory of John and Nancy Perry, and Ray and Dorothy Ann Adam, by Diane and Steve Adam.

**Thank you for staying masked inside the building. We encourage you to socially distance by family groups as much as possible.**

**Services are recorded.** If you do not wish to have your image included in a recording, please contact the office or one of the ministers.



Our sanctuary has an induction loop system—use T mode.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Please feel free to address God in a way that is faithful to God's relationship to you.*

**Our Father, Our Mother, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SONG AND VIDEO      "Love Makes a Family"      Betsy Rose

*Betsy Rose, vocals and guitar*

*Preschool, kindergarten, and elementary children through the fifth grade are invited to listen to the song with the congregation, then leave for time in the lounge as the song concludes.*

TIME OF RECONCILIATION AND FORGIVENESS      Amy Roon

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God among us,

**All: open our eyes that we may see you in our siblings.**

One: God among us,

**All: open our ears that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.**

One: God among us,

**All: open our hearts that we may love each other as you love us. Renew in us your spirit.**

One: God among us,

**All: free us and make us one. Amen**

SILENT PRAYERS

RESPONSE

“God in Me” verse 2

Heidi Blythe and David Nichols

*Chancel Choir; David Nichols, organ*

*I call forth healing in me  
I call forth wholeness in me  
I call forgiveness in me: God in me, God with us, God in all.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

\*RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE Hymn #27

“From All That Dwell below the Skies”

Isaac Watts, harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Chancel Choir; David Nichols, organ*

*From all that dwell below the skies  
let the Creator’s praise arise;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung  
through every land, by every tongue.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

ANTHEM

“The Dream Keeper”

Langston Hughes, Rollo Dilworth

*Chancel Choir; David Nichols, piano*

*Bring me all of your dreams,  
You dreamers,  
Bring me all of your  
Heart melodies  
That I may wrap them  
In a blue cloud-cloth  
Away from the too-rough fingers  
Of the world.*

## WE PROCLAIM

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### THE WORD OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 1:15-21

Christian Halstead

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Do You Want a Revolution?” Rev. Yolanda Norton

\*HYMN # 570

“We Shall Overcome”

U.S. traditional, harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland

*We shall overcome (three times) someday  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We shall overcome someday.*

*We'll go hand in hand (three times) someday;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We'll go hand in hand someday.*

*We are not afraid (three times) today;  
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,  
We are not afraid today.*

LITANY FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Christian Halstead

One: We remember the conviction of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that “freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.” Therefore, let us pray

**All: for courage and determination by those who are oppressed.**

One: We remember Brother Martin’s warning that “a negative peace which is the absence of tension” is less than “a positive peace which is the presence of justice.” Therefore, let us pray

**All: that those who work for peace in our world may cry out first for justice.**

One: We remember Brother Martin's insight that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Therefore, let us pray

**All: that we may see nothing in isolation, but may know ourselves bound to one another and to all people under heaven.**

One: We remember Brother Martin's lament that "the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are." Therefore, let us pray

**All: that neither this congregation nor any congregation of God's people may be silent in the face of wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo that is God's call to us.**

One: We remember Brother Martin's hope that "dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from fear drenched communities, and in some not so distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty." Therefore, in faith,

**All: let us commend ourselves and our work for justice to the goodness of almighty God. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Steve Jerbi

*At the words "Hear us, O God," you are invited to respond, "Your mercy is great." You're invited to write a prayer concern on the pink card in the pew rack. Place your card in the offering plate so it can be passed on to the Prayer Chain and the clergy. You are also invited to place prayers in the prayer wheel at the front of the sanctuary. Prayers placed in the prayer wheel will not be shared with the Prayer Chain or the clergy, and when the cylinder is full, they will be shredded and returned to the earth as compost.*

RESPONSE "God in Me" verse 3

Heidi Blythe and David Nichols

*Chancel Choir; David Nichols, organ*

*I send forth healing for you*

*I send forth wholeness for you*

*I send forgiveness for you: God in you, God with us, God in all.*

OFFERINGS FOR THE MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH Steve Jerbi

*If you are seated by the side aisle, please find the "Welcome" pad, sign it, and pass it down the row. As the pad is passed back, please take note of those you are sitting with so you can greet them by name following worship.*

*Our January Special Offering supports 350 Seattle's Climate Justice work. They are fighting the climate crisis, primarily by organizing teams in four ways : resistance to new fossil fuel projects, support for policy solutions, holding economic institutions accountable, and building resilient, welcoming multicultural and multigenerational communities. Interested in learning more, joining a policy action team, participating in an art-build, or being around some energetic people? Please see [350seattle.org](http://350seattle.org) and [350WA.org/cat](http://350WA.org/cat). Thank you for your support!*

OFFERTORY "All Beautiful the March of Days"  
English folk song, arr. Robert Below  
*David Nichols, organ*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Steve Jerbi

\*RESPONSE "God in Me"  
Heidi Blythe and David Nichols  
*All are invited to hum this verse.*

**WE RESPOND**

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\*OUR COVENANT Christian Halstead

Leader: God of Providence and Grace,  
in a spirit of memory, thanksgiving and hope:

All: **We covenant with You and with one another;**  
**To seek and respond to Your word and will,**  
**made known and to be made known;**  
**To worship You in unity and diversity,**  
**welcoming everyone;**  
**To live responsibly within Your creation,**  
**sharing with gratitude the gifts we are given;**  
**To care for and pray for each other,**  
**in trials of the spirit and in times of joy;**  
**To encourage each other in the growth of**  
**our minds and spirits;**

To promote Your reign of justice and peace,  
meeting hate with reconciling love; and  
To reject the false gods of society,  
proclaiming the gospel of Jesus.  
May God help us and be with us. Amen.

\*DOXOLOGY MOVEMENT

## WE GO FORTH

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\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Yolanda Norton

POSTLUDE

“Thee Will I Love, My Strength”

J. B. König, arr. David Cherwien

*David Nichols, organ*

*We invite you to go and take the good news with you into the world—or you may stay and use this time to listen to the music. Persons of any age may move to the chancel for a better view of the performers and their instruments.*

*Our worship leaders look forward to greeting you after worship. A pastor will remain at the front of the church near the prayer wheel to receive prayer requests.*

## ABOUT THIS SERMON SERIES

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### **The Kin-dom of God**

In God, we find a new kind of family—a kinship with church, community, and the world. These kinship connections include not only humans in their similarity and diversity, but the plants and creatures of the earth. In Epiphany, Lent, and Eastertide, we'll explore these connections and how the Bible encourages us to be in right relationship with all the kin-dom of Earth.

### **The Kin-dom of God: Family Stories in the Bible**

The Kin-dom of God imagines a Christian community of real, messy people in connection to one another and the larger world. As we celebrate the ways God is revealed to us, we are reminded that it happens in both miraculous and ordinary ways. This Epiphany, we encounter family stories that contend with kinship and the kin-dom. In these stories, we see the ways God is always expanding our definition of family and our call to connection with one another.

### **Spiritual Practice**

The Bible is full of all sorts of families and relationships—aunties, cousins, siblings, lovers, families of origin, and chosen families. The same is true in our congregation—every person has their own stories of family and kinship. As our community spiritual practice, we are inviting the congregation to consider “family prayer time.” In your relationships, where do you pray together?

- Do you share a dinner prayer?
- Do you have bedtime prayers and rituals?
- Do you have any prayers you remember from your childhood?
- Do you have a prayer you teach children?

**Share in worship:** In addition to all the ways people serve in worship—openers, greeters, ushers, call to worship, liturgists, pastors, musicians, artists—we are inviting photo submissions each week. They will be featured in our *Song with Our Children* and need to be submitted by 10am Wednesday prior to the service. You can submit in several ways: text Pastor Steve at 414-238-7030, upload to dropbox at <https://www.dropbox.com/request/BoOqRSNxrkslc8s0NGee>, or look for the weekly post on the UCUCC members and friends Facebook group.

Here are the photo requests:

- January 9 *Aunties from the East*: extended family and chosen family
- January 16 *Sisters in the Struggle*: sisters or a woman/femme hero
- January 23 *Cousins*: your cousins or best friends
- January 30 *Daughters of Zelophehad*: family reunion
- February 6 *Brothers*: brothers or a man/masc hero
- February 13 *Love, Actually*: a photo that expresses love
- February 20 *Wedding Reception*: your wedding or a great celebration
- February 27 *We are Family*: being with your UCUCC family

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

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**Bearing the Light:** The Roon Family  
**Music Director:** Benjamin Rogers **Organist:** David Nichols  
**Chancel Choir**  
**Preacher:** Rev. Yolanda Norton  
**Clergy:** Amy Roon, Steve Jerbi, and Loren McGrail  
**Liturgist:** Christian Halstead

Cover art by Steve Jerbi in Envato.

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“We Shall Overcome” is a United States traditional piece, harmonized by J. Jefferson Cleveland (1981). This anthem of the 1960s civil rights movement was frequently sung at mass meetings and marches. Several sources have been cited as its origin, including the spiritual “No More Auction Block for Me,” based on the tune known as Sicilian Mariners; an old Baptist hymn “I’ll Be All Right”; and part of the text from C. A. Tindley’s gospel hymn “I’ll Overcome Someday.” Harmonization Copyright © 1981 Abingdon Press. Reprinted from SONGS OF ZION. Podcast and streamed with permission under One License #A-706833. All rights reserved.

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## SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*“To care for and pray for each other in trials of the spirit and in times of joy...”*

Each week we share prayer requests as a congregation, both in prayers led by one of the pastors, and on our pew cards. We list the prayers for each other here as a way to continue to hold one another in prayer.

### **Prayers announced January 9th service—led by Pastor Steve Jerbi:**

- ◆ We remember our “church siblings” as they deal with health challenges:
- ◆ Barb Carmichael who is having issues with her hip .
- ◆ Nancy Wiesner who is recovering from a broken shoulder.
- ◆ Amy’s Aunt Norma who is in the hospital with an infection following a medical procedure.
- ◆ Margaret Swanson’s stepdad Karl Ostrom.
- ◆ Sally Pritchard who has been in and out of the hospital recently.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Seabeck Book Club**

#### **Monday, January 17, 7:00 pm on Zoom**

The Seabeck Book Club will be reading *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. This week we will be discussing Chapter 8 Indian Country. Contact Beth.Bartholomew.208@gmail.com or zoom@universityucc.org for the Zoom link.

### **Bible Study**

#### **Tuesday, January 18, 10:00-11:30 am on Zoom**

Our pastor-led Bible Study meets weekly on Zoom. The gathering includes reading the scripture together, reflecting, and sharing prayers. Contact zoom@universityucc.org for the Zoom link.

## **Racial Justice Book Club**

### **Monday, January 18, 12:00-1:30 pm on Zoom**

We are continuing to work with the book *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* by Resmaa Menakem. This book truly leads the reader, one meditation at a time, through a practice evoking your feelings about trauma and then letting your body release them. Contact [Beth.Bartholomew.208@gmail.com](mailto:Beth.Bartholomew.208@gmail.com) or [zoom@universityucc.org](mailto:zoom@universityucc.org) for the Zoom link.

## **All Women Extraordinary**

### **Monday, January 24, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

All women are invited to Zoom in for an informal hour of chatting and virtual dining. Every fourth Monday 6:00 - 7:00 pm. We plan to continue using Zoom, as we have expanded our group beyond the Seattle area. Please join us! Questions or mailing list requests, contact Christina Purdy [pyrdina@yahoo.com](mailto:pyrdina@yahoo.com) or 206-697-5376.

## **Memorial for C. William Bailey (Bill)**

### **Sunday, January 29, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm at University UCC and on Zoom**

A memorial celebrating the life of Bill Bailey will be held in the sanctuary on January 29th at 2:00 pm. Please attend in person, or join us via Zoom. Contact [zoom@universityucc.org](mailto:zoom@universityucc.org) for the Zoom link, or you can dial in at (253)-215-8782 for Meeting ID: 897 8924 5872 Passcode: 4515.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Update from the Pledge Committee**

We're so close to our 2022 pledge budget of \$1,285,000. With your help, we can fully fund our goals for 2022 by raising an additional \$50,000. To make a one-time gift or increase your pledge, email [pledge@universityucc.org](mailto:pledge@universityucc.org). Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

### **Building Closed Monday, January 17**

On Monday, January 17 the building will be closed and University UCC staff will be off, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

### **Covid-19 Q&A with Dr. Wes Van Voorhis**

If you missed the Covid-19 forum and Q&A last week, you can watch it online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2Kzrr17QIc>  
Do you have questions about the new variant? Not sure what sources of information are most reliable? Wondering about what precautions you should take? UCUC Member Dr. Wes Van Voorhis, the Director of the UW's Infections Disease Center, offered this forum and Q&A session about Covid-19 for our church community.

### **UCUCC Racial Justice Actions for the week**

This past month we have witnessed the passing of some heroes of Black civil rights. We encourage you to learn more about their lives and the impact of their work:

**Lani Guinier**, a civil rights lawyer and scholar, championed affirmative action in higher education and challenged America to become a democracy.

**Sydney Poitier**, an actor, director, and diplomat, paved the way for Black representation in Hollywood in the 1950's and 60's.

**Rev. Desmond Tutu**, an Anglican Bishop, theologian, and human rights advocate, organized against apartheid and led the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa.

## **Reserved parking for Sunday mornings and special events**

Is the issue of parking keeping you from attending in person church services or other events at church? We have reinstated our pre-pandemic system of reserving parking spots for anyone who needs a spot close by the church. You can either reserve one time only or for every Sunday morning service. Email [office@universityucc.org](mailto:office@universityucc.org) and we'll set it up for you.

## **Reaching us with your prayer requests**

There are many ways we pray together as a congregation. In this public setting we do not name specific people, but we do open our hearts to the names we carry. We have a Prayer Circle on Wednesday mornings for specific prayers (all are welcome - to participate email [zoom@universityucc.org](mailto:zoom@universityucc.org) to request the link), and a Prayer Chain that also holds our prayers. You can reach out to those groups by emailing your prayer to [PrayerRequest@universityucc.org](mailto:PrayerRequest@universityucc.org) or reaching out to one of the pastors.

**As a reminder, Facebook is not a good place to share private pastoral concerns.** Our main Facebook page is not regularly monitored by church staff and is open to the public. The Members and Friends Facebook page is more private, since one must be accepted into it by a UCUC admin. The best vehicle to reach our pastors is via email or phone, and if you reach a voicemail please leave a message with a good time to reach you. For urgent issues, there is a 24/7 number (206 445-3378) that will text the Pastors - one of them will get back to you as soon as possible.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Event Time	Event Name	Primary Location
<b>Sunday, 16 January 2022</b>		
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Children's Activity & Family-Friendly Space	Turner Lounge
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Youth Group	Youth Room
10:00 AM to 11:20 AM	WORSHIP	Sanctuary
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	St. Photini worship service	Chapel
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM	WORSHIP LIVESTREAM	online
6:30 PM to 8:45 PM	Refuge Recovery meeting	Turner Lounge
<b>Monday, 17 January 2022</b>		
All Day	Building closed - Staff holiday	
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM	Parish Care Meeting	Zoom 1
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Seabeck Book Club	Zoom 3
<b>Tuesday, 18 January 2022</b>		
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Bible Study	Zoom 2
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM	Racial Justice Book Club	Zoom 3
<b>Wednesday, 19 January 2022</b>		
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Afghan Support Initiative	Zoom 1
10:00 AM to 10:30 AM	Prayer Circle	Zoom 3
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Stewardship/Finance Committee	Zoom 1
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Church Council Meeting	Zoom 2
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Jr & Sr Small Group	Margaret's Zoom
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Middle School Game Night	Online 2
<b>Thursday, 20 January 2022</b>		
12:00 PM to 11:59 PM	Women's Retreat 2022	Other...
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Emergence Team	Zoom 3
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Choir rehearsal	Sanctuary
<b>Friday, 21 January 2022</b>		
All Day	Women's Retreat 2022	Other...
<b>Saturday, 22 January 2022</b>		
12:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Women's Retreat 2022	Other...
<b>Sunday, 23 January 2022</b>		
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Children's Activity & Family-Friendly Space	Turner Lounge
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Youth Group	Youth Room
10:00 AM to 11:20 AM	WORSHIP	Sanctuary
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM	St. Photini worship service	Chapel
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM	WORSHIP LIVESTREAM	online
6:30 PM to 8:45 PM	Refuge Recovery meeting	Turner Lounge