

January 19, 2025
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

All people: *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 so 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.*

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of this congregation, Starview United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: You are recognized and affirmed in your ministries and are now installed in your respective positions. And now in accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

All people: *Thanks be to God!*

ANTHEM *Songs of Thankfulness & Praise* (Smith) **Chancel Choir**

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Our God blesses us with extravagance and abundance. Grateful for all we have been given, let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord with a song and a prayer. Please stand as you are able.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY *Accept, O God, the Gifts* **Blue Hymnal, #379**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: *Just as Jesus turned gallons of water into wine, we too know God's extravagant blessings. Take these gifts we give today and bless them, Holy God, that others may know your abundance and live whole and healthy lives. Amen*

HYMN *Take My Life* **Blue Hymnal, #609**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: And now, from the One who is indeed the giver of all good gifts:
go and share what God has given you;
go and proclaim that God's love is here;
go in the power of God's Spirit
to make all things new.

All people: *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

PRAYERFUL CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Matthew 25)

Pastor: God's steadfast love welcomes us here.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God for this glorious gift!**

Pastor: God's faithful love redeems our lives.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God for our many blessings!**

Pastor: God's faithful love is ours to share.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God! We will offer this gift to God's world.**

OPENING PRAYER

All people: *Gracious and loving God, source of all wholeness, forgiveness, and mercy, may your Spirit heal those who are torn, mend those who are broken, and protect those who are fragile. Enable us, O God, through the gift of your steadfast love, to remember who we are and whose we are. In your love, may we be true and faithful disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

HYMN

My Life Flows On

Blue Hymnal, #619

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us humbly approach God's throne of grace to confess our sins and yearnings, presenting ourselves honestly before our Savior.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: *You have blessed us with a variety of gifts, Holy God, but we are reluctant to share. We hoard what is most valuable and make excuses for ourselves when called to share. The Spirit has blessed each of us uniquely, but we hide our light under a bushel and fail to rise to our potential. God, forgive us and embolden us. Help us to claim our gifts and put them to good use. Amen.*

HYMN

There is a Balm in Gilead

Blue Hymnal, #501

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the Good News! Our God is a loving God, full of mercy. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All people: We will trust in this forgiveness, be at peace, and respond in grateful service. Amen.

PRAISE HYMN *There is a Balm in Gilead* (Refrain Only) **Blue Hymnal, #501**

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HEBREW READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

GOSPEL READING

John 2:1-11

SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INSTALLATION OF LAY LEADERS – AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY

Pastor: Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

Congregation: To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: 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 or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pastor: These people have been called by God to serve in various ministries, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and desire to witness to that call in the presence of this congregation. Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church whether gathered or scattered.

INTRODUCTION OF LEADERS

Church Council

Worship, Pastor-Parish, and Property Committees

Christian Education Ministry: Teachers & Youth Mentors

JAM (Jesus and Me) Ministry

Called to Care Ministry

Grief Share Ministry

Pastor: 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?

Individuals: I am.

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

Individuals: I do, relying on God's grace.

Pastor: Members of this household of faith, 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. Will those who are able, please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

Congregation: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to partners with each other in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you and one another. We promise to honor your leadership and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ. (May be seated)

Pastor: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you for your respective positions.

Pastor: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for your ministry in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute your position of leadership in the name of Christ. Amen.