

*The United Methodist Church
12 Commerce Street
Clinton, CT*



*The Fifth Sunday
after the Epiphany*



*February 9, 2025
Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester – Guest Preacher*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

This morning, we are blessed to have our District Superintendent Rev. Alpher Sylvester and his lovely wife Carlene join us in worship today. Let us join our hearts in prayer for Rev. Alpher and his family.

Prelude

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder:

“The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people.” A.W. Tozer

Introit

Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship (Responsively)

Leader: Beloved, the Savior calls to you. Will you follow?

People: God, help us leave everything and follow.

Leader: Christ's call persists through the clouds of doubt, fear, and worry that descend on our path. Will you follow?

People: God, help us leave everything and follow.

Leader: Jesus calls us to shift our priorities, to leave behind the baggage of prejudice and the grasping for position so we can truly love God and our neighbors well. Will you follow?

People: God, help us leave everything and follow.

Leader: Beloved, receive this good news: you are not alone! Today we answer Christ's call together!

People: God, help us leave everything and follow your path of Love everywhere we go! Amen.

*Opening Hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

#64

Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

Your wisdom, Holy Mystery, is as unfathomable as the deep, as alluring as the night sky. When all seems lost, call us from the wreckage of our lives. Grant us the ability and the will to hear your call and bless us with the grace to embrace your promised salvation. Help us face our fears, that we might remain sure-footed on our journey of faith. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (*Responsively*)

O Lord, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith.

Through your Spirit, we rest in the assurance of your acceptance.

Forgive us when we are shackled by our narrow understandings of discipleship and our clouded sense of purpose.

Through your Spirit, we are drawn into the illumination of your empowering love.

Forgive us when we are frightened of the future or pull back from the demand of your calling. Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past, to acknowledge your grace in the present moment, and to trust you for our future.

Through your Spirit, we offer ourselves in discipleship.

We come together as your disciples.

We seek renewed and renewing faith.

Touch us now with your Spirit, Lord.

Touch us now with your Spirit. Amen.

Time of silent prayer

Words of Assurance

Even in uncertain times, we are held secure in God's grace, much like the light of the Epiphany star continues to shine even after the event itself.

1st Scripture Reading (Old Testament)

Isaiah 6:1-8

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Chancel Choir

*2nd Scripture Reading (Gospel Lesson)

Luke 5:1-11

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn "Where He Leads Me" #338

Sermon Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
Connecticut District Superintendent

Offertory

*Doxology #95

*Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

Ever-faithful God, who calls us into the deep waters of faith and trust, we offer these gifts with open hearts. Transform our offerings into acts of love and service, so that we may catch glimpses of your kingdom and draw others into your embrace. Guide us to live deeply and follow Christ's call to be fishers of people in your abundant grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

*Closing Hymn "Here I Am, Lord" #593

Benediction Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
Connecticut District Superintendent

*Response "Bless Us Now" Frank Milnes
Bless us now as we depart, Watch o'er us, God, while we're apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen

Postlude

Souper Bowl Sunday is after worship and then our Annual Meeting.

Flowers are from Karin Thelin today.

From the Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries

Please join us for our SSKP Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 11th at Grace Episcopal Church, 336 Main Street in Old Saybrook. The meeting will begin at 7pm for an hour of sharing and updates about all we accomplished together during 2024. All are welcome!

Special Notes

Call to Worship

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2024.

Opening Prayer

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/11817/february-9-2025-fifth-sunday-after-epiphany>

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Adapted from Prayers and Readings for Worship, Volume 2, Peter Judd.

SUNDAY, FEB 9

9:00 Sunday School

10:00 Worship

11:00 Souper Bowl/Annual Meeting

TUESDAY, FEB 11

7:00 Bible Study Online

WEDNESDAY, FEB 12

9:30 TOPS

5:00 Soup Kitchen

7:00 Church Council

THURSDAY, FEB 13

10:00 Bible Study

6:30 Scouts

7:30 Choir

FRIDAY, FEB 14

5:30 AA meeting

Ushers: Sharon Minick, Bill Hancock, Banks Babjak, Lynda Larson

Camera Operator: TBD

Video Coordinator: TBD

Worship Leader: Bev Bowen

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester, Connecticut District Superintendent

Choir Director: Bob Hale

Counters: Roger Templeton and Bob Hawes

Greeters: Dave Moore

Acolytes: Lydia Templeton and Lucy Babjak

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