



United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

January 14, 2024

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery
812-332-1850 www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church
January 14, 2024 – Second Sunday after Epiphany



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *BWV 866* *J.S. Bach*

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

Benjamin Watkins, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 139:7-10)

Deacon Vera Heitink, liturgist

Liturgist: Where can we go from God's spirit?

People: If we ascend to heaven, God is there; if we make our bed in Sheol, God is there.

Liturgist: If we take the wings of morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

People: Even there God's hand shall lead us, and God's right hand will hold us fast.

***Opening Hymn** *Be Thou My Vision* #339



PASSING OF THE PEACE (liturgist & congregation)

Liturgist: As God has poured out the grace of forgiveness and love and peace through Christ, let us also share that grace with among ourselves. Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

MUSIC for MEDITATION

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

Members of the UPC Quartet

Call to Confession

Let us approach God with confidence, trusting in God's grace as we humbly confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession (in unison with the liturgist)

Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our sins even before we confess. Your knowledge is wonderful, but also challenging. We'd much rather avoid painful truths and deny our role in wrongdoing. Help us face our failings so we can move forward in truth. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (liturgist)

Hear the good news: "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination (liturgist)

By your Holy Spirit, O God, open our ears, our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to the Holy Word so that it comes to rule within us for Jesus' sake. Amen.



First Reading: *Psalm 139* (Pew Bible p.476; Large Print p.962) – Liturgist
 Gospel Reading: *John 1: 43 - 51* (Pew Bible p.810; Large Print p.1634)–Pastor
 Pastor: The word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON *Epiphanies* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

***Hymn** *Open My Eyes That I May See* #324

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH— The Apostle’s Creed (traditional) led by Rev. Montgomery
I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only 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 hell; 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.

**Gloria Patri.* #579

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Offertory

Our Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth

Members of the UPC Quartet

**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Cheryl Montgomery

***Closing Hymn** *To God Be the Glory* #485

CHARGE AND BLESSING Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

POSTLUDE *I Love to Tell the Story* Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Shea Henry Olivia McKenzie Kathleen Olds Rev. David Rosen Anita Steverson
 Roby Lorimer Patty Lucas

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by the Colby's
 Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri
 Our military men and women around the world
 The people of Ukraine The people of the Middle East
 Our military men and women stationed around the world
 The faculty and staff of Monroe County United Ministries

First Presbyterian Church of Bedford is a small congregation which celebrated in 2019 its 200th anniversary. We have been without a pastor for nearly two years; however, we have an ongoing community ministry of serving a free breakfast on the fourth Saturday of the month. In December 2023, as they have for many years, the women's group organized collecting items to fill shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child, filling over 50 shoeboxes. We are blessed to have an extremely talented, skilled, and dedicated young organist who provides wonderful music for our worship services with the beautiful and versatile pipe organ in our sanctuary.

We will be grateful if you can support our congregation's ongoing ministry with your prayers. Also, please pray for God to send us the pastoral leadership that is needed.

2024 UPC Annual Congregational Meeting

UPC's Annual Congregational Meeting is next Sunday, January 21 at the end of the morning worship service. The *Snow Date* is Sunday, January 28.

It's an opportunity to celebrate the UPC accomplishments of 2023 and focus upon the mission and ministry of the year ahead.

Attending the Annual Meeting will also help UPC friends and members in assessing how their own talents may be utilized to help the church. You'll find it to be time well spent. To speed up the meeting, the 2024 Annual Report covering the year 2023 will be distributed the week before for perusal. Similar to last year at this time, we find that we've come through nearly three years of difficult times and UPC has survived because of teamwork and an overall spirit of togetherness. Please continue to exhibit this by attending this most important meeting.



United Presbyterian Church Staff

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