

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 29, 2023**

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8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

*Prelude – The Storm Shall Pass – Erdmantel/Compton*

***Call to Worship***

With all our heart, we take refuge in God most high, who created all things.

**The merciful Father, Source of all goodness.**

With all our heart, we take refuge in Christ, the redeemer from sin,

**Who restores our true nature, the perfect and mysterious word.**

With all our heart, we take refuge in the One who embraces the universe, who at all times and in all places responds to our needs.

**The pure and tranquil Holy Spirit.**

***Opening Hymn No. 475\*\* - Come Down, O Love Divine***

*Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*

*And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till Love create a place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

***Invocation***

**Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted, and revealing to all your glory. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

*The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages*

### ***Scripture Reading***

Psalm 15 (Old Testament page 495/469)

A Psalm of David.

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  
and speak the truth from their heart;  
who do not slander with their tongue,  
and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;  
in whose eyes the wicked are despised,  
but who honour those who fear the LORD;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;  
who do not lend money at interest,  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### ***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.**

### ***God's Word for Young Disciples***

(Those in grades K-4 may be excused for Children's worship during the 11:00 service. They may be picked up in Asbury Hall.)

### ***Scripture Reading***

Matthew 5:1-12 (*The Message* translation)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem - Who is the One?** - Craig Courtney

Who is the One who bids us come together? Who is the One whose presence fills this place? Who is the One who spreads a feast before us, His own beloved to partake? Who is the One, who acting in humility, emptied himself, took on the form of man? Who is the One who trod the path of suffering, who took our place that we might live? Who is the One possessing all authority? Who is the One who speaks and stars appear? Who is the One who holds all things together, and is Himself before all things? Who is the One who reigns o'er all victorious? Who is the One who sits upon the the throne? Who is the One who went before us, to come again and take us home? He is the Lord of hosts. He is the great "I AM." He is Almighty God. He is the One among us now.

**Sermon** – God's Promise of Blessing

Pastor Mike Ward

**RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

**Hymn No. 430\*\*** - *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

*O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me thy patience; still with thee  
in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong;*

*In hope that sends a shining ray*

*far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.*

### **Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory** - *Elegiac Prelude on "Jerusalem"* - Charles Callahan

*(Please fill out the presence card found in the pews and place it in the offering plates in the narthex or bring it to the front during the offertory.)*

### **Doxology\*\***

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People/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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

### **SENDING FORTH**

*The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith*

**Closing Hymn No. 451\*\*** - *Be Thou My Vision*

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.*

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.*

**Benediction and Choral Response** - (Hymn No. 438)

**Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; Thee, only Thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.**

***Postlude - Exultation - Charles Callahan***

**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given**

in loving memory of Charles and Namoi Putman by Joan Bowles and family

in loving memory of our parents, Paul and Florence Jones, and Ray and Edna Lewis, by  
Gerald and Carol Lewis

**Liturgist:** 8:30 Chad Wagner; 11:00 Keith Walker

**Service Music:** 8:30 Epworth Choir; 11:00 Chancel Choir; **(Both)** Chancel Ringers

**Music:** One License A-731491

## **CHURCH NOTES**

**Alpha Study:** Alpha is for beginning Christians, those who are not of the faith but curious, or even those further along in their faith who want a refresher course on the big picture of the Christian faith. It will start Tuesday, February 7 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. and will be led by Jerry Killian. Please contact church office, 330-923-5241, by January 31 if you are interested in participating or if you have any questions.

**New to First Church?** We want to get to know you! Our next Pizza with the Pastors will be on Sunday, February 5, in Asbury Hall following the 11:00 worship service. Please RSVP to the office to let us know you're coming, how many are in your family, and if you have any dietary restrictions.

**Ramsey+ and Financial Peace University:** Do you want to create a life without financial stress? We've invested in a Ramsey+ site license so every family in our church has access to a one-year membership full of tools and resources to help you honor God with your money. If you're ready for this, go to <https://www.financialpeace.com/hosts/fumccuyahogapc> and sign up. A Financial Peace class will begin on Sunday, February 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. There is a \$50 fee per family.

**Wesley Youth Outing:** The Wesley Ice Skating Outing (for grades 4 - 6) will take place on Sunday, January 29, from 12 - 2:30. We will walk to the Front Street Ice Rink. There is no cost unless you need to rent skates (\$5.00.) Bring a sack lunch. After we return we will feast on hot chocolate and knit until it is time for bells and choir rehearsals. Be sure to bring your looms if you took them home. Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Center and must be returned before you can participate. Contact Donna Curfman at 330-329-2379 if you have questions.

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## Next Steps

### Notes:

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### **Questions for reflection:**

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Where in your community's life of prayer and service do you see instances of God's justice, peace, and healing?

Jesus's way of thinking was radical back then, and it is still radical today. Is it possible to not be humble and to serve others, or is this just a radical ideal?

### **Questions for discussion:**

Who will abide in God's sanctuary? Is Psalm 15 a checklist for us, left by David? Is this an all or nothing situation?

Where is God calling you to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly into all the blessedness in the ordinary course of your day?

Who are the poor in spirit? Are there people that society determines as being not blessed?

Why is it easier for us to live how the world tells us to live instead of how Jesus tells us to live?

### **Memory Verse:** Matthew 5: 12

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5: 10

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness/ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

### **Readings for next week:**

Psalm 112: 1-10

Matthew 5: 13-20

Isaiah 58: 1-9a

1 Corinthians 2: 1-12



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
JANUARY 29, 2023**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller & John Fox

**HOSPITALIZED:**

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert & Patsy Boyd	Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes	Gerald Lewis Bonnie & Jerry Nine Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier David Townsend Mary & Ken Tunstall Marilyn Waller
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**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Nancy Yeager & family on the death of her father, member George Kirk on 1/21.

Marlene Mercurio & family on the death of her husband, member Gus Mercurio on 1/22.

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### **SENDING FORTH**

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*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
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Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

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I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
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**HOSPITALIZED:**

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert & Patsy Boyd	Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes	Gerald Lewis Bonnie & Jerry Nine Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier David Townsend Mary & Ken Tunstall Marilyn Waller
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**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Nancy Yeager & family on the death of her father, member George Kirk on 1/21.

Marlene Mercurio & family on the death of her husband, member Gus Mercurio on 1/22.

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 29, 2023**

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8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

*Prelude – The Storm Shall Pass – Erdmantel/Compton*

***Call to Worship***

With all our heart, we take refuge in God most high, who created all things.

**The merciful Father, Source of all goodness.**

With all our heart, we take refuge in Christ, the redeemer from sin,

**Who restores our true nature, the perfect and mysterious word.**

With all our heart, we take refuge in the One who embraces the universe, who at all times and in all places responds to our needs.

**The pure and tranquil Holy Spirit.**

***Opening Hymn No. 475\*\* - Come Down, O Love Divine***

*Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.*

*And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till Love create a place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

***Invocation***

**Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak, or persecuted, and revealing to all your glory. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

*The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages*

### ***Scripture Reading***

Psalm 15 (Old Testament page 495/469)

A Psalm of David.

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  
and speak the truth from their heart;  
who do not slander with their tongue,  
and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;  
in whose eyes the wicked are despised,  
but who honour those who fear the LORD;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;  
who do not lend money at interest,  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### ***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.**

### ***God's Word for Young Disciples***

(Those in grades K-4 may be excused for Children's worship during the 11:00 service. They may be picked up in Asbury Hall.)

### ***Scripture Reading***

Matthew 5:1-12 (*The Message* translation)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem - Who is the One?** - Craig Courtney

Who is the One who bids us come together? Who is the One whose presence fills this place? Who is the One who spreads a feast before us, His own beloved to partake? Who is the One, who acting in humility, emptied himself, took on the form of man? Who is the One who trod the path of suffering, who took our place that we might live? Who is the One possessing all authority? Who is the One who speaks and stars appear? Who is the One who holds all things together, and is Himself before all things? Who is the One who reigns o'er all victorious? Who is the One who sits upon the the throne? Who is the One who went before us, to come again and take us home? He is the Lord of hosts. He is the great "I AM." He is Almighty God. He is the One among us now.

**Sermon** – God's Promise of Blessing

Pastor Mike Ward

**RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

**Hymn No. 430\*\*** - *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

*O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me thy patience; still with thee  
in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong;*

*In hope that sends a shining ray*

*far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.*

### **Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory** - *Elegiac Prelude on "Jerusalem"* - Charles Callahan

*(Please fill out the presence card found in the pews and place it in the offering plates in the narthex or bring it to the front during the offertory.)*

### **Doxology\*\***

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People/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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

### **SENDING FORTH**

*The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith*

**Closing Hymn No. 451\*\*** - *Be Thou My Vision*

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.*

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.*

**Benediction and Choral Response** - (Hymn No. 438)

**Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue; Thee, only Thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.**

***Postlude - Exultation*** - Charles Callahan

**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given**

in loving memory of Charles and Namoi Putman by Joan Bowles and family

in loving memory of our parents, Paul and Florence Jones, and Ray and Edna Lewis, by  
Gerald and Carol Lewis

**Liturgist:** 8:30 Chad Wagner; 11:00 Keith Walker

**Service Music:** 8:30 Epworth Choir; 11:00 Chancel Choir; **(Both)** Chancel Ringers

**Music:** One License A-731491

## **CHURCH NOTES**

**Alpha Study:** Alpha is for beginning Christians, those who are not of the faith but curious, or even those further along in their faith who want a refresher course on the big picture of the Christian faith. It will start Tuesday, February 7 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. and will be led by Jerry Killian. Please contact church office, 330-923-5241, by January 31 if you are interested in participating or if you have any questions.

**New to First Church?** We want to get to know you! Our next Pizza with the Pastors will be on Sunday, February 5, in Asbury Hall following the 11:00 worship service. Please RSVP to the office to let us know you're coming, how many are in your family, and if you have any dietary restrictions.

**Ramsey+ and Financial Peace University:** Do you want to create a life without financial stress? We've invested in a Ramsey+ site license so every family in our church has access to a one-year membership full of tools and resources to help you honor God with your money. If you're ready for this, go to <https://www.financialpeace.com/hosts/fumccuyahogapc> and sign up. A Financial Peace class will begin on Sunday, February 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. There is a \$50 fee per family.

**Wesley Youth Outing:** The Wesley Ice Skating Outing (for grades 4 - 6) will take place on Sunday, January 29, from 12 - 2:30. We will walk to the Front Street Ice Rink. There is no cost unless you need to rent skates (\$5.00.) Bring a sack lunch. After we return we will feast on hot chocolate and knit until it is time for bells and choir rehearsals. Be sure to bring your looms if you took them home. Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Center and must be returned before you can participate. Contact Donna Curfman at 330-329-2379 if you have questions.

**Hat & Mitten Mission** - We are starting our Hat & Mitten mission now that the weather is growing colder. We are asking for new or gently-used gloves/mittens/winter hats, or new socks. The donation table is located across from the church office, outside of the chapel. Items may be left there, or if the line is empty, please feel free to bag the items, then place them directly outside on the line at the corner of Portage & 3rd.

**Acme Receipts:** Receipts dated through December 24 may still be turned in at the Welcome Center. **All receipts will be due by the end of January.**

**Blessings Box** - Our blessing box certainly lives up to its name by blessing those in the community who need assistance with food. If donating items, please avoid items in glass, as these may shatter and injure someone due to the cold weather. Items may be placed in the box directly, or brought inside and placed on the donation table located outside the church library.

**Anniversary Concert:** Mark your calendars now for Friday, February 10, when Dean Wagner will delight us with a concert celebrating his 35 years at First Church. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m.



**First Church Feeds Needs:** At our monthly distribution, we are often able to get items like soap, paper towels, and pet food from the Food Bank. However, personal hygiene items, especially bladder control products for men and women (such as Poise pads or disposable underwear) are frequently requested by our clients but are rarely available from the Food Bank. We would love to be able to offer these products on a regular basis, so we are requesting donations. Please drop off items in the bin marked First Church Feeds behind the Welcome Center. And as always, monetary donations are appreciated as well.

**Heart4theCity:** Heart4theCity is a mission church of the East Ohio Conference located in the Goodyear Heights neighborhood. They are currently asking for small electric kitchen appliances, bedding, and gloves (work style NOT cotton as they have enough of these currently) to be sold in the store they operate. Donations may be placed in the bin located outside the church library.

**Walk to Emmaus:** Have you taken part in the Walk to Emmaus, either locally or in a different state or country? We would like to put together a participant list of people who have. Please send Pastor Mike the following information: name, phone number, email address, and your Walk information.

**Weekday Christian Preschool:** Registration has begun for the 2023-2024 school year. We offer a Christian preschool program for children who will be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30, 2023. The program is state licensed and staffed with degreed lead teachers and trained teachers' assistants. We believe that learning takes place through discovery and play. Each classroom environment is child led and teacher facilitated. Our main objective is to foster a positive self-image in each child while nourishing their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.

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**2022 Financial Report:**

2022 Revenues - \$814K  
2022 Expenses - \$830K  
Net loss for 2022 - \$16K

2022 Beginning Operating Fund Balance - \$246K  
2022 Loss - (\$16K)  
2022 Ending Operating Fund Balance - \$\$230K  
(Our goal is to keep our Operating Fund Balance > \$150K)

In addition, we received:  
\$95K in gifts for specific missions and funds  
\$175K in G&M distributions on 9/30/22 for Trustees and Endowment Fund use  
\$49K in Capital Expense donations

## Next Steps

### Notes:

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### **Questions for reflection:**

How do we live in hope of a reality we cannot yet see or, at best, catch only in fleeting glimpses?

Where in your community's life of prayer and service do you see instances of God's justice, peace, and healing?

Jesus's way of thinking was radical back then, and it is still radical today. Is it possible to not be humble and to serve others, or is this just a radical ideal?

### **Questions for discussion:**

Who will abide in God's sanctuary? Is Psalm 15 a checklist for us, left by David? Is this an all or nothing situation?

Where is God calling you to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly into all the blessedness in the ordinary course of your day?

Who are the poor in spirit? Are there people that society determines as being not blessed?

Why is it easier for us to live how the world tells us to live instead of how Jesus tells us to live?

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 5: 12

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5: 10

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness/ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

### **Readings for next week:**

Psalm 112: 1-10

Matthew 5: 13-20

Isaiah 58: 1-9a

1 Corinthians 2: 1-12

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
JANUARY 29, 2023**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller & John Fox

**HOSPITALIZED:**

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