



# Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 14, 2024

"All things are lawful for me,"  
but not all things are beneficial.

"All things are lawful for me,"  
but I will not be dominated by anything.

1 Corinthians 6

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**Sunday, January 14, 2024**  
**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend**

Tolling of the Bells

Prelude

Call to Worship

*Psalm 139: 7-10*

\*Opening Hymn

*Arise, Your Light Is Come*

Welcome & Announcements

Responsive Prayer of Invocation

*One:* Holy God, gather us up in this new year,  
to be your church, the Body of Christ.

We come to you, because you first came to us:

**All: You have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

*One:* Jesus, guide us along a new path  
so that by your wisdom your will may be done  
with us and through us.

**All: Even before a word is on my mind,  
O Lord, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.**

*One:* Holy Spirit, we submit to your beauty,  
And bow before your light.

Bring us back to who we are meant to be. Amen.

Prayer Ground

Story Time

*David Is Chosen*

*Spark Story Bible, p.126*

Blessing

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\* *As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.*

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## Passing of the Peace

One: "The Peace of Christ be with you."

**All: And also with you!**

## Sermon/Message

\*Hymn

*Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

## Prayers of the People

### **Prayer of Thanks**

Thank you, God  
for my friend \_\_\_\_\_.  
They make me feel good.

### **Prayer of Petition**

Please, God  
help my friend \_\_\_\_\_.  
Be with them today.

## 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.*

*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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory

## Doxology

*Each week, we sing and sign an inclusive Doxology (ASL).*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that Love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, & Spirit one. Amen.*

\*Closing Hymn

*Your Ways Are Not Our Own*

## Benediction

## Postlude

*All are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee, tea, and snacks. We understand it can be difficult to step into a room of strangers. We hope, with every cup and cookie, we can deepen our connections and learn a little more about each other each week.*

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\* As the Spirit guides you, we encourage you to rise in body or spirit.

EPIPHANY

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# Arise, Your Light Is Come

*Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21*

*Ruth Duck, 1973*

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!  
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

*This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.*

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.  
*William Walter, 1872*

# Let Justice Flow like Streams

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Jane Parker Huber, 1984

Amos 5:14-15, 24; 7:7-8

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark-ling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ-teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.


*This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of the reunification of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983. The text's brevity underscores the urgency of Amos' pronouncements against injustice.*

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.  
Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770

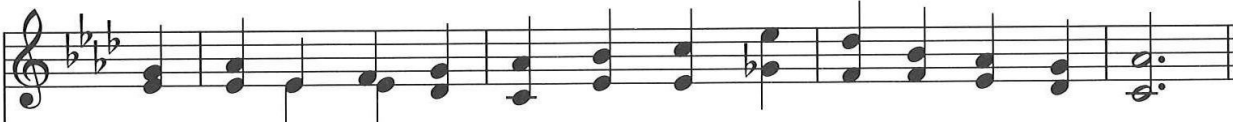
# Your Ways Are Not Our Own

Lavon Bayler, 1988, rev. 1993


Luke 6:17-38; Rom. 12:9-21



1 Your ways are not our own, O gra-cious God most high,  
2 Christ teach-es us to bless the ones who curse and harm,  
3 Yet, we can-not ex-cuse a-buse in an-y form,  
4 How shall we show your love, your par-don to be-lieve?  
5 For-give-ness is our joy, re-ceive-ing, giv-ing, too.



Yet we would fol-low in your paths and on your love re-ly.  
To turn the oth-er cheek when struck, at-tack-ers to dis-arm.  
For all are chil-dren of your care, and love must be our norm.  
You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we re-ceive.  
Keep us from judg-ments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.



*Lavon Bayler has served on the Illinois Conference staff of the United Church of Christ beginning in 1979. She maintains a faithful practice of writing worship materials as part of her daily spiritual discipline and has published several books of resources.*

Tune: SCHUMANN S.M.  
Cantica Laudis,  
Lowell Mason and G. J. Webb, 1850

# Bulletin Reminders

After worship, Rev. Morisse is available for conversation in the Parish Hall.

## BUDGET MEETING

### Sunday, February 4

This year, we are streamlining the Budget approval process. There will be one Budget Meeting on Sunday, **February 4**. There will be time to ask questions and propose amendments...a traditional congregational meeting. As is our custom, we will make 2024 Budget and 2023 Financial documents available ahead of time. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to reach out to Robert, Greg, or anyone from Church Council. The Church made several big decisions in 2023 that make the forecast for 2024 much improved from prior years. A special word of thanks to everyone who Pledged and to those who made special gifts to our Solar Project!

**"If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective."**

*Christmas sermon,  
Atlanta, GA, 1967*



## SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE

### Parking and Access Restrictions

Construction on the solar project is continuing this week, with most of the activity on the Sanctuary roof. Work on the Parish Hall part of the array has been completed, and the entire array may be finished as soon as next week. Due to the overhead work, safety dictates that both of the normal access doors to the Church office be blocked off during working hours. The staff/member parking area next to the Parish Hall kitchen, and the Parish Hall door leading to the courtyard are also temporarily closed. For access during the day, please use the main Parish Hall foyer entrance until the construction is complete, and the safety barriers are removed.

Friends of the Framingham Library

## BOOK SALE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

49 Lexington Street

*(Friends members may enter at 9:30 a.m.)*



**Buyer be wise...**

Our inventory includes English and non-English books for:  
Adults, Children, Teens, and Young Adults...  
as well as music CDs and a wide selection of DVDs.

**Don't forget to visit...The Bag Room**  
Buy a bag of books for \$12, half-bag for \$6.

Most books/media  
\$2

Cash or check only

# Good job, Church!

I want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for everyone who made Advent and Christmas so warm and meaningful. Being church together is a beautiful and radical devotion. Our world is so divided and dispersed. It takes commitment to gather together, to share peace with each other, and to grow together. Some come from less open, less friendly spiritual traditions. Plymouth Church offers healing. Some are stuck and yearn for inspiration. Plymouth Church offers challenge and training. It doesn't just happen. You bring your love and heart and labor to this organization, to this family, to this body. And you should be very proud.

To Carole Blackman and to our decorating elves, who set up trees and creches and candles. To our Deacons, who went above and beyond each Sunday morning, Christmas Eve, and who even offered *Breakfast Church* on New Year's Eve! To Elissa and our Choir, who worked so hard on *Ubi Caritas* and did so with love and patience. To Leslie, Nancy, and Elizabeth who pulled a Pageant of beautiful music, fun costumes, humor, and some prophetic wisdom. (Get off your phones!) To our Readers and to our candle-lighters, who brought the good news to life. To Sydney, Ruth, Elizabeth, Colleen, Don and all our mentors who are there for our Youth. To Sandy and Elizabeth who signed up to teach Faith Workshop this month! To John for making this and every bulletin an addition of beauty to our worship. To Bill, Glenn, Don, and Rob, for bringing our solar dreams into reality! To Nancy, Phil, and John, who made sure all was clean and warm.

Thank you. And God Bless you! I cannot wait to discover what we get up to in 2024!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.