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# The Cornerstone

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

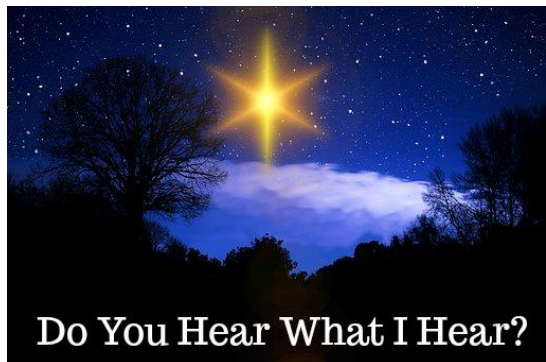
*Psalms 118:22-23*

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Volume LXXII Number 1

January 4, 2024



This Sunday, Epiphany Sunday, closes out our Christmas season as the Wise Men arrive to see the Babe Jesus. As we celebrate their choice to resist Herod's demands by departing via a different way home, I invite you to reflect on one last **Carol of Resistance**. Though we are not singing it this Sunday, I believe its story is a meaningful devotion to conclude our Worship Series entitled; *I Believe, Even When...*

In 1962, the carol, *Do You Hear What I Hear?* was written by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Inspired by seeing babies pushed in strollers in New York City while the dire threat of nuclear war loomed, Noel wrote, "said the night wind to the little lamb," and "pray for peace, people everywhere." The "star dancing in the night with a tail as big as a kite" can be interpreted as the star of Bethlehem but also what a nuclear missile looks like in flight. The composers said in an interview later that it was difficult to actually sing the song that year without crying. Indeed, our prayers for peace continue and the need to protect the children of the world and secure a future for them are as dire as ever.

As the last song in our series, may our prayers be, "a song high above the trees" with our voices as "big as the sea."

## *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

*Said the night wind to the little lamb  
Do you see what I see? (Do you see what I see?)  
Way up in the sky, little lamb  
Do you see what I see? (Do you see what I see?)*

*A star, a star, dancing in the night  
With a tail as big as a kite  
With a tail as big as a kite.*

*Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy  
Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?)  
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy  
Do you hear what I hear? (Do you hear what I hear?)*

*A song, a song high above the trees  
With a voice as big as the sea  
With a voice as big as the sea.*

*Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king  
Do you know what I know? (Do you know what I know?)  
In your palace warm, mighty king  
Do you know what I know? (Do you know what I know?)*

*A Child, a Child shivers in the cold  
Let us bring him silver and gold  
Let us bring him silver and gold.*

*Said the king to the people everywhere  
Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!)  
Pray for peace, people, everywhere  
Listen to what I say! (Listen to what I say!)*

*The Child, the Child sleeping in the night  
He will bring us goodness and light  
He will bring us goodness and light.*

*On this Epiphany Sunday, Garry and Jill invite you....*



## **Diaper Drive for Maker's Place**

### **Epiphany Sunday Worship, January 7, 2024**

For every diaper brought to the manger of the newborn Jesus, Jill will match and take to Maker's Place is a GNJ Mission Site in Trenton, NJ; that supports low-income families by supplying diapers and cream, so no baby lies in soiled diapers because of the high cost of needed supplies.





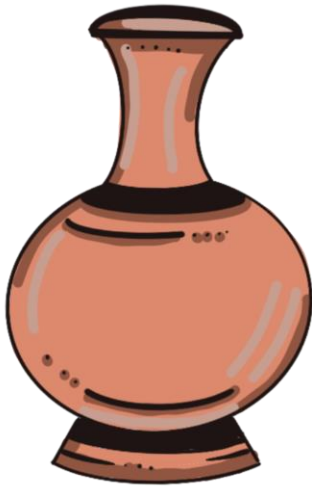
### THANK YOU!

The church looked just lovely during Advent and Christmas thanks to a faithful team of helpers. I so appreciate the following people who freely give up their time and talent to decorate both at Christmas and Easter:

Chip Stoll (who changes the banners all year)  
Jim Scisco (who sets up the outdoor crèche)  
Barbara MacPherson  
Sue Johnson  
Mike Sheckler  
Ruth Sheckler  
Sue McRae  
Barbara Gruezke  
Joy More  
Pamela Lynch

Thanks, also, to all who so generously donated the gorgeous poinsettias!

Sincerely,  
Diane Maher  
(Altar Guild Chair)



Epiphany Worship & Communion  
January 7th, 9:30 a.m.







## Scripture as Art

### RETURNS

January 21, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Online – Code available next week.

A ministry that was reflective and popular prior to our pastoral transition was *Scripture as Art*. Let's see if it is still meaningful and expands our spiritual journeys.

It is a ministry open to ALL. If this is a new ministry to you, let me explain...

This is a ministry to participate in a low-structure exploration of scripture. It is a way to allow your creativity and imagination emerge as you reflect on a particular scripture. Need to be an artist? – NO! Just be open to the movement of the Spirit.

### This is how it works:

1. First think of "art" in broad terms...poetry, coloring, painting, sculpting, weaving, song, dance, and acting.
2. Read the scripture I am naming over the next two weeks. As you read it, pay attention to what calls upon your imagination. Read or listen to the scripture with senses alert. What colors do you picture would be a part of a painting as your expression. What words or emotions stand out to you? What music style and lyrics might sing forth within you? On what aspect of the story does your heart focus?
3. Share your feelings and thoughts in some artistic representation. No talent and skill is judged. It is simple to draw deeper into God's word in a different way and allow God to speak to us through our senses. Allow it to become an act of prayer and/or praise.
4. Invite other friends and family to join you or do something themselves – this is a great intergenerational activity.
5. On the date named, we will share our artistic expression with others online.

### Scripture:

*Luke 5:17-25 (Common English Bible)*

<sup>17</sup> One day when Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and legal experts were sitting nearby. They had come from every village in Galilee and Judea, and from Jerusalem. Now the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal. <sup>18</sup> Some men were bringing a man who was paralyzed, lying on a cot. They wanted to carry him in and place him before Jesus, <sup>19</sup> but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they took him up on the roof and lowered him—cot and all—through the roof tiles into the crowded room in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

<sup>21</sup> The legal experts and Pharisees began to mutter among themselves, "Who is this who insults God? Only God can forgive sins!"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus recognized what they were discussing and responded, "Why do you fill your minds with these questions? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier—to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> But so that you will know that the Human One<sup>[a]</sup> has authority on the earth to forgive sins"—Jesus now spoke to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, get up, take your cot, and go home." <sup>25</sup> Right away, the man stood before them, picked up his cot, and went home, praising God.

**Now let us reflect and create...join me and others online Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. - Jill**



**January 7, 2024  
Epiphany Sunday**

**Counters:** Patty Aria, Abby DiNapoli, Judy Gorra

**Greeter:** Melody Ragle

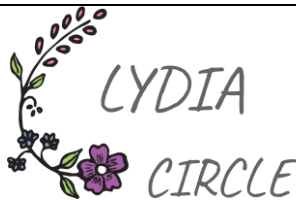
**Usher:** Kitty Amato

**Acolyte:** Robert Scott

**Lay Reader:** Barbara Gruezke

**Altar Flowers**

Given in loving memory of Russell Danielson by  
Randy, Ron, Jeff, Scott, Russel, & Aldo.  
Given by Caroline Chesbro in loving memory of  
her dear friend, Catherine DuPree.



**Meeting and pledge service, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.  
in Wesley Hall.**



**WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS**

**January 7-January 13**

Genesis 1:1-5  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Acts 19:1-7  
Matthew 2:1-12



**January 14, 2024  
2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Counters:** Kitty Amato, Peg Kuchen, Chip Stoll

**Greeter:** Michael Sheckler

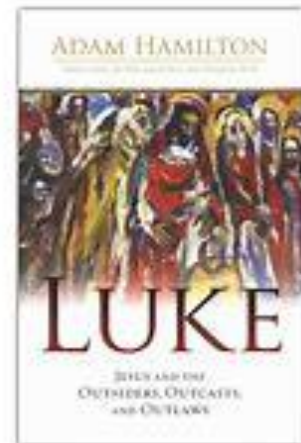
**Usher:** Paul Bradley

**Acolyte:** Kitty Amato

**Lay Reader:** Len Gruezke

**Altar Flowers**

Given by Soon Hur in loving memory of her  
brother, Sam Koh.  
Given by Scott & Russel Danielson in loving  
memory of the January 16<sup>th</sup> birthday of Russel's  
dad, Fulgencio Tarrado, Sr.



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

A new study, entitled, *Luke; Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton, begins on January 14<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome! The class meets in Wesley Hall at 11 a.m. on Sundays. There is a book that goes along with the study if you'd like to purchase it beforehand, but it is not necessary for the study.

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

Jersey Shore Center, Eatontown: **David Miller,**  
**Carol Allen**

Care One: **Donna Hulse**

At Home: **Jean Gillette, Virginia Haydu,**

**Bob Sproat, Bertha Ahrens,**

**Cary Carlisle, Priscilla Smith, Connie Bruckmann**

**Tsedalech Tesfaye, our World Vision Child from Ethiopia, is sponsored for the month of January by Diane Maher in gratitude for healthy grandchildren.**



## **Mercy Center Collection**

Mercy Center is need of the following items: applesauce, canned beans, canned chicken, canned fish, canned meat, canned vegetables, cooking oils, crackers, dried herbs and spices, canned or dried fruit, feminine hygiene products, soup packets, peanut butter, canned soup, canned stew, whole grain pasta, cereal, rice, canned tomatoes and pasta sauce, tea, coffee, cookies, shelf-stable milk, snacks, & fruit juice. Please place any perishable items in the Fellowship Hall kitchen refrigerator and tell the office that you did so. All other items may be placed in the cart and bin in the church foyer.



Wesley Nursery School is collecting toys for pediatric cancer patients ages 0-2. If you would like to contribute, please drop off items at the church office.



### **Something to think about:**

If it's out of your hands, put it out of your mind.



### **PRAYER GARDEN**

You are invited to pray in the Prayer Garden, taking whatever time you need in this holy space, appreciating God's presence in nature.

Prayer focus for January:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!  
2 Corinthians 5:17

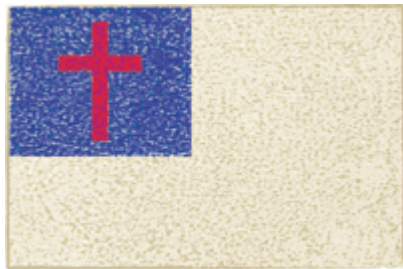
**OUR JANUARY COMMUNION OFFERING  
BENEFITS  
THE PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**



### The Little Free Pantry Items Needed!

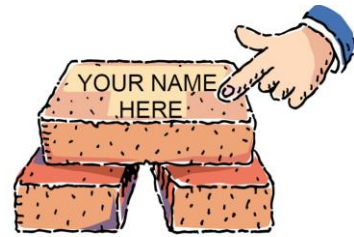
Please think of stocking cooking oil, soup packets and ready to heat soup, rice, fruit juice, snacks, jugs of water, and pet food in the bench.

A good idea  
Bread



Would you like to donate a new outdoor Christian flag? If you wish, it will fly in honor or in memory of loved one. If so, contact the church office, 732-531-1150.

If you would like to sponsor our World Vision child, Tsedalech, for a month in 2024, please contact the church office. Sponsorship can be in memory of or in honor of someone or a special occasion. Cost is \$39; checks made out to the church.



If you would like to purchase a personalized brick for the Prayer Garden, please complete the form attached to this week's Cornerstone on or before February 25, 2024. The bricks will be dedicated to the Prayer Garden at the sunrise service Easter morning.

Questions can be forwarded to Gayle Fitzmaier at [gaylefitzmaier@yahoo.com](mailto:gaylefitzmaier@yahoo.com).

