

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

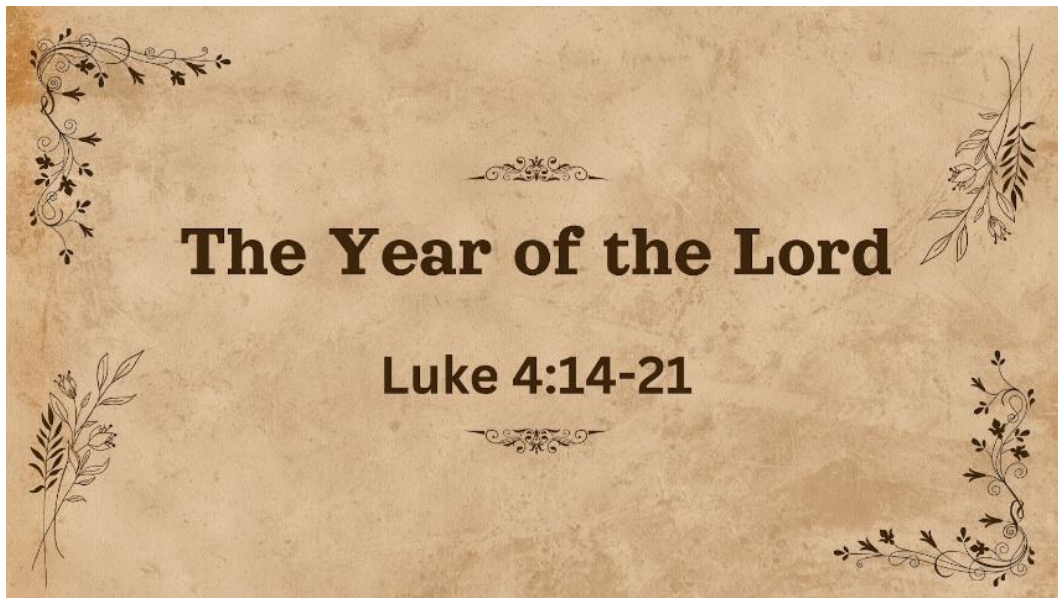
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Rev. Kristin W. Peters



*GUMC is a community of ordinary people seeking to put into practice
the extraordinary love of God.*

United Methodist Church

January 26, 2025 – 10:15 a.m. – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Welcome, everyone! Whether you are a member, a friend, or a visitor,
we are glad you are here!

*Please stand as able.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP** by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Kevin Sweers

L: Children of God, we gather to worship, to sing and proclaim with joy the good
works God is doing in our midst.

P: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

L: We also gather today to pray for our families, our community, and our world.
To name the challenges that press in around us, to lament the suffering in
our world, to declare our trust in God in the midst of hardship.

P: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

L: We, like those in Nazareth, gather to hear and receive the Word of God
proclaimed among us. To encounter the life-giving message of God's love
redeems us to be bearers of love and freedom in this world.

P: We gather to worship, as is our custom.

L: Children of God, listen. Pay attention. Ready your hearts. God is here. Jesus
has come among us. The Spirit brings the Word to life in our midst. Are you
ready?

P: We gather to worship, as is our custom. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:** "Spirit of God"

TFWS #2117

***OPENING PRAYER** by Ruth C. Duck

Kevin Sweers

**We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people. We have
gathered, God of grace and wisdom, because we have heard your call. You have
reached out to us in Jesus Christ; you have touched us with your Spirit, and we have
turned toward you, seeking to love as we have been loved. We call upon your holy
name: empower us to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through the
grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HYMN: "The Summons," vv. 1, 2, and 5

TFWS #2130

Children will collect and present quarters for Heating Assistance.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Kristin W. Peters

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Peters

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. Peters

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** by UMC Discipleship Ministries

Rev. Peters

Faithful God, who calls us to follow and empowers us by your Spirit, we bring these gifts to you in gratitude and hope. May they be used to proclaim good news, set the oppressed free, and bring sight to the blind. Transform our offerings into acts of love and justice that reflect the mission of Jesus in this world. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

***HEARING GOD’S WORD:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6,8-10; Luke 4:14-21
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Kevin Sweers

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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MESSAGE: The Year of the Lord

Rev. Peters

MOMENT OF MEDITATION

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

Rev. Peters

***HYMN:** "I'm Goin' a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing," vv. 1 and 4

UMH #333

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Peters

***SUNG PASSING OF THE PEACE:** "As We Go"

Composed by Jeremy Johnson

As we go, may your spirit go before us.

As we go, may we follow where you lead.

May we live what we have learned,

share the message we have heard,

and be a light unto the world as we go.

All share a greeting of peace as you exit the Sanctuary.

POSTLUDE

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SERVING AT GUMC TODAY

Officiant: Rev. Kristin W. Peters

Worship Leader: Kevin Sweers

Ushers: Doug Jass and Jim Jass

Hospitality: Maurene House and Joyce McClintock

SERVING AT GUMC NEXT SUNDAY (FEB. 2)

Worship Leader: Robin Sweers

Ushers: Gary Thoms and Russ Trulson

Hospitality: Jan Sweers and Kevin Sweers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Monday, Jan. 27 9-11 a.m., God's Pantry

Tuesday, Jan. 28 1-4 p.m., Comfort Quilters

4:15 p.m., Old Testament Bible Study

Thursday, Jan. 30 1-3 p.m., Mats Matter

4-6 p.m., Comfort Quilters

4-6 p.m., God's Pantry

Sunday, Feb. 2 9 a.m., Sunday School

10:15 a.m., Worship with Communion

11:15 a.m., Fellowship

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday, Jan. 30 6 p.m., Offering Counters (Church Office)

BUILDING STEWARDSHIP FUND (FOR NEXT PROJECT): \$2,409.94

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: Be sure to see an usher for a children's bulletin tailored to their ages (3-7 or 7-12) for worship that follows along with the Bible story for the day.

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY: Since the extreme cold last Sunday made it difficult for people to be here, the special offering envelopes will be in the pews again today for your gifts supporting Human Relations Day.

CALIFORNIA FIRES RESPONSE: Here are ways you can help if you're interested: Donate directly to the heavily damaged Pacific Palisades Community UMC at <https://www.palisadesmethodist.org/giving>; write a check to GUMC with Cal Fires in the memo line to give to the UMCOR response for all the California fires; send e-gift cards that will be given to community members who lost their homes and belongings to palisadesmethodist@gmail.com; donate to the Los Angeles Fire Recovery Fund through the UMC California Pac Conference at <https://www.calpacumc.org> to benefit all the Los Angeles communities suffering in the fires.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL: Sign up on the sheet on the lobby table on or before **Tuesday, Jan. 28**, if you'd like a copy of this year's Lenten devotional, *Good Enough* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. The book is \$16 if you'd like to donate to offset the cost.

BLOOD DRIVE: GUMC will be hosting a community blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 1-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Text LIFESERVE to 999.777, call 800-287-4903, or visit lifeserve.info/schedule to make an appointment.