



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 16, 2025**

***As a Christian community of faith and love,
we at First Church strive to accept and respect all people.
- Core Values, 2022***

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12
metrical version by Alex E. Hill

BEACH SPRING 87 87D
attr. to Benjamin F. White, 1800-1879
The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

1. Bless'd are they, the poor in spi - rit, for God's king - dom they shall gain.
2. Bless - ed those who, mer - cy grant - ing, shall with mer - cy be ad - dressed.
3. Bless - ed are you, when in - sul - ted and op - pressed be - cause of me,

1. Bless'd are they in grief or mourn - ing, who find com - fort from their pain.
2. Bless - ed those whose hearts are spot - less, with God's vi - sion they'll be blest.
3. When they ut - ter words of e - vil, and they swear un - truth - ful - ly.

1. Bless-ed are the meek and low - ly, in the land they shall a - bide.
2. Bless-ed those in peace - ful striv - ing, for God's chil - dren they shall be.
3. Then re - joice! Be filled with glad - ness, and in heav'n your hope a - wait,

1. Bless - ed those who long for vir - tue, for they shall be sa - tis - fied.
2. Bless - ed all those per - se - cu - ted, for God's king - dom they shall see.
3. Where your sor - rows turn to bless - ings, and your ho - nor will be great.

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**First Church of Monson, Congregational
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Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 16, 2025**

This morning we welcome Roy Miller as our Worship Leader.

Prelude *Blessed Are the Peacemakers* - Roberta Rowland-Raybold (b. 1938)

A Time for Children

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

***Passing of the Lord's Peace**

***Call to Worship (responsive)**

L: Happy are we

P: when our treasures cannot be quantified.

L: Happy are we

P: when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

L: Happy are we

P: when our pain is soothed by the balm of love.

L: Happy are we

P: when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

***Opening Hymn** *The Beatitudes* (Page 1)

***Morning Prayer (unison)**

***Holy One, God of faith, hope, and love: we confess
that we do not put love above all things; we are not
patient and kind; often we are arrogant and envious;***

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

we like to see our enemy fall; we demand our own way and complain when we don't get it. Forgive us, Holy One, as we forgive others.

***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. Amen.

Anthem

Blest Are They

**Giving of Ourselves
Call to Offering**



As the magi of old, guided by a light in the night sky, brought gifts of gratitude to God, so we bring our own gifts. May these gifts be a source of light to those in need.

Offertory Hymn *Jesus Sat with His Disciples*

(Page 6)

***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.***

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, we dedicate these gifts to you. May they be used both here and around the world to further the work of your realm. Amen.

First Reading

Psalm 1

¹Happy are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God. ²Instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. ³They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do. ⁴But

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

evil people are not like this at all; they are like straw that the wind blows away. ⁵Sinners will be condemned by God and kept apart from God's own people. ⁶The righteous are guided and protected by the Lord, but the evil are on the way to their doom.

Second Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

¹Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ²and he began to teach them: ³"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor, the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! ⁴"Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them! ⁵"Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised! ⁶"Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully! ⁷"Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them! ⁸"Happy are the pure of heart; they will see God! ⁹"Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children! ¹⁰"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! ¹¹"Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. ¹²Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted.

***Sermon Hymn**

O Blest Are You

(Page 7)

Sermon

"True Happiness"

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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.

***Closing Hymn**

We Are the Light of the World

(Page 9)

***Benediction**

Postlude

*Blessed Are You and
Great Is Your Reward*

- Robert Rowland-Raybold

Green - Ordinary Time

Green is the color of "Ordinary Time." Ordinary Time is the time of year between Christmas and Lent and between Easter and Advent.

Green symbolizes life, hope, and anticipation.

Jesus Sat with His Disciples



1 Je - sus sat with His dis - ci - ples On a
 2 "Bless-ed are the meek and hum - ble, All the
 3 "Bless-ed are God's sons and daugh - ters, Mak - ing



moun - tain - side one day; As the crowds of peo-ple
 earth to them is willed. Those who hun - ger to be
 peace where there is strife. Bless - ed are the per - se -



gath - ered, He be - gan to teach and say:
 ho - ly, They are bless'd and will be filled.
 cut - ed, Who for righ - teous - ness lose life;



"Bless-ed are the poor in spir - it, Heav - en's
 Yes, the mer - ci - ful are bless - ed, Mer - cy
 Their re - ward is great in heav - en, In the



king - dom they will share. Bless-ed are the sad and
 will to them be shown. And the pure in heart are
 king - dom up a - bove— So be glad to share My



mourn - ing, Joy and com - fort will be theirs.
 bless - ed, They have eyes for God a - lone.
 suf - f'ring And re - joice to know My love."

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O Blest Are You

D G/B A D A Bm

1. O blest are you, Christ Je - sus said, Who
 2. O blest are you, the poor, the meek, Who
 3. O blest are you, through grief and loss, Who
 4. O blest are you who work for peace, With
 5. O blest are you, Christ Je - sus says, Who

D/A G D/F# G D Bm C#m7(b5) D Em

know how deep your need. For you, I o - pen
 toil your whole lives long. Though world - ly scorn may
 weep from sor - rows borne. Come stand be - neath my
 pa - tient hope and care. And blest are you, when
 know re - jec - tion's pain From bear - ing wit - ness

D/F# A Bm F#m/A D/F# G D/A A7 D G/D D

heav - en's door, Where earth - ly wants are freed.
 deem you weak, My joy will make you strong.
 emp - ty cross: I com - fort all who mourn.
 mer - cy shapes Your life as lov - ing prayer.
 for my sake. I call you by my name!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953, © 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: ST. COLUMBA, CM; Irish melody

We Are the Light of the World

Words based on the Beatitudes

Jean Anthony Grief



1. Bless-ed are they who are poor in spir - it, Theirs is the king dom of God.
2. Bless-ed are they who will mourn in sor-row, They will be com - fort - ed.
3. Bless-ed are they who show oth - ers mer - cy, They will know mer - cy too.
4. Bless-ed are they who bring peace a-mong us, They are the child-ren of God.



1. Bless us O Lord, make us poor in spir - it.
2. Bless us O Lord, when we share their sor - row. Bless us, O Lord, our God.
3. Bless us O Lord, hear our cry for mer - cy.
4. Bless us O Lord, may your peace be with us.



We are the light of the world, may our light shine be - fore all!



That they may see the good that we do, and give glo - ry to God!

Serving You Today

Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Congregation
Pastor
Worship Leader
Director of Music Ministries
Greeters/Ushers
Lay Reader
Fellowship

All Members of First Church
Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick
Roy Miller
Kiel Krommer
Elaine Carlin & Ed Maia
Doug Kelley
Carolyn Horacek/Mary Newland

Officers

Moderator
Clerk
Treasurer
Chair, Board of Deacons
Chair, Board of Trustees

Cindy DeSellier
Carol Mullen
Suzanne Kelley
Jeanne Dill
David Sanborn

Members at Large

Lynn Galica
Elaine Harris
Mary Newland

Staff

Church Administrator
Sunday School Superintendent
Custodian

Lee Brahen
Erin Greene Wallace
Linda Whippie

Office Hours, Pastoral Care, and Contact Information

The office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Until Pastor Holly begins on March 1, the deacons will be available should anyone require pastoral care. You can always leave a message on the church answering machine at 413-267-3312 when the office is not staffed or contact the office by email at office@firstchurchmonson.org.

IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS

Please complete a Prayer Request Form and place it in the offering plate if you wish to include a name in next Sunday's bulletin. Your loved one will remain on the prayer list for one month, after which you may resubmit a request if necessary.

For healing and support:

Doris Carpenter	Renee
Louise Carolyn	Lewis
Diana Nothe-Taylor	Beverly
Carol Snyder	Richard D'Aquila
Chris	Marlaina
Martha Warren	Josh Cash
Mary Linkenhoker	Joseph B.

For comfort in grief:

The Family and Friends of Sharon Allen
The Family and Friends of Earl Chaffee
The Family of Thelma Illig
The Family of Philip Wallander

For strength and comfort during war and disaster:

The people of Ukraine
The people of Israel and Gaza
The people of Palestine and Lebanon
The people of Syria
The people affected by the California wildfires
The people affected by the Washington, D.C. plane crash

For all service people, wherever they may be:

Chelsea Carr	Stephen Dill, USN
Malik Pugh, USMC	Tim Olson, USN
Michael Wales, USN	

This Week in the Life of the Congregation

- February 16, Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship and Hearts Willing
 Bake Sale
 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Annual Meeting (S)
 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. - Community Choir (SA)
 6:00 -8:00 p.m. - Trustees' Meeting (L)
- February 17, Monday **Presidents Day**
 3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SA)
 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Cub Scouts (SA)
- February 18, Tuesday 4:00-5:00 p.m. - Barre Above Class (SA)
 5:15-6:15 p.m. - PiYo Class (SA)
- February 19, Wednesday 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (SA)
 7:00-9:00 p.m. - Hearts Willing (K/F)
- February 20, Thursday 5:15-6:15 p.m. - PiYo Class (SA)
 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal (SA)
 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl (F)
- February 22, Saturday 7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA (L)
 2:00-4:00 p.m. - Hearts Willing Tea
 (Jeff Lord's Home)
- February 23, Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship
 11:30-12:30 p.m. - Deacons' Meeting (PS)
 11:45-12:45 p.m. - Community Choir (SA)

C - Sprague Chapel
F - Fellowship Hall
K - Kitchen
L - Library
P - Parking Lot
S - Sanctuary
SA - Sunday School Auditorium
SS - Sunday School Classroom

Church News

Messenger Deadline - February 23
Email Carol Mullen at carellen7@gmail.com

New Pastor. We are very pleased to announce that our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Holly Norwick, was unanimously called to service on Saturday, February 9, as the fifteenth settled pastor of First Church. We are very excited as we enter this new phase in the life of First Church.

Pastoral Care. Until Holly Norwick begins on March 1, the deacons will be available should anyone require pastoral care until then. Just contact the office at 413-267-3312 or office@firstchurchmonson.org and you will be put in touch with a Deacon.

Lenten Meditation Booklets. Thanks to all who have volunteered to write on a scripture for the Lenten Meditation Booklet. Meditations should be sent to suzannekelley@att.net today so that the booklet can be ready for Ash Wednesday, March 5.

Annual Meeting. Please plan to stay immediately following worship for the Annual Meeting.

Hearts Willing Bake Sale. Be sure to stop by the Hearts Willing bake sale today. See what the members have cooked up!

Hearts Willing. Members and friends of Hearts Willing are invited to an Elegant Afternoon Tea on Saturday, February 22 (snow date March 1) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Jeffrey Lord's house, 33 Green Street, Monsoon. Jeff has very graciously offered to host this special get-together at his beautiful house. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon with hot beverages, goodies, and conversations at this amazing location. Dressing up is encouraged! There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please indicate if you are willing to bring cookies, scones, or other treats to share. Hope we will see you there!

Tavern Night. Please plan to have dinner at the Main Street Tavern on Thursday, February 27. First Church receives 10% of the evening's proceeds. This is a great opportunity to spend some quality time with friends and/or family. If you can't stay for dinner, why don't you order take out and pick it up!

Communion at Home. Please contact the Church Office (413-267-3312) if you would like a deacon to share communion with you in your home. We want everyone to be able to participate in this sacrament.

Welcome to First Church



Welcome! If this is your first or second Sunday with us, we are grateful that you've come to be with us this morning. It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and God's presence during our worship. If you have any questions at all about where to go or what to do, our deacons, ushers, and church members are here to assist in making you feel right at home, so please do not hesitate to ask.

All members and guests are encouraged to wear name tags. Guests may obtain a temporary adhesive name tag from an usher.

The Sacrament of Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is up to parents to decide whether their children are ready to receive this Sacrament.

Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp to the church and Fellowship Hall are on the High Street side of the building. Hearing assistive devices are available from the ushers.

Fellowship Hour begins after worship in Fellowship Hall (just follow the crowd). Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

Our *Let's Eat* breakfast is on the third Sunday of each month. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. before worship. Donations are gratefully accepted but not required.

Learn more. If you would like to learn more about First Church, please call us at (413) 267-3312, email to office@firstchurchmonson.org, or visit our website at <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



Scan Here to Give Online



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