



Ripley United Church of Christ Celebration of Worship



January 4th, 2025
Second Sunday after Christmas
Epiphany of the Lord

Ripley Church Meetings:

- Board of Trustees: Tuesday - Jan. 6th @ 5:30 pm - Office
- Board of Deacons: Sunday - Jan. 11th @ 10 am - Office
- Mission Committee: Wednesday - Jan 14th @ 6:00 pm - Office

Ripley Mission/Church/Community Involvement:

- Quilting: Thursday Jan. 8th @ 9:00 am
 - Saturday Soul Stitching - Saturday Jan 10th @ 9:00 am
- Noisy Offering - Jan. 25th: Project to be Announced

Ripley Annual Meeting: Feb. 8th, 2026 after worship

- Annual Reports are due to the Trustees by Jan. 18th
 - Reports can be turned in to Josh Youel, preferably by email to: youelcj@gmail.com
- Question to Report Contributors should be asked by Feb. 1st to allow research and possible resolution before the meeting on the 8th

Future Dates:

- Ash Wednesday: Feb. 18th, 2026
- Easter: April 5th, 2026

Welcome and Announcements Prelude and Candle Lighting

Praise and Invocation (excerpted from Isaiah 60)

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Many: For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the people, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

One: Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn...

Many: Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

Call to Worship

One: Let us worship in the presence of a just and loving God.

Many: Amen

***Opening Hymn:** "Arise, Your Light is Come" (black hymnal #164)

Confession:

One: The Light has come! Our Epiphany awaits.



Many: We fail to see the miracle in front of us. We fail to behold the light.

One: Our Gospel calls us to follow the Christian path, to become God's light in the world.

Many: Still we fall short in thought, word and deed.

One: Forgive us, Lord, our failings.

Many: Teach us to see, serve and love as we are called.

Silent Prayer

Assurance:

One: Hear the Gospel! Our God is a gracious and loving God.

Many: By His grace, we are forgiven

One: By His love, we are set free

All: Amen

Passing the Peace/ Children's Procession

Our scripture teaches that the Kingdom of God belongs to those who enter it like a child. As our children come forward, it is our custom to greet each other from our places, then sing the children to the front with the traditional song "This Little Light of Mine." If you are worshiping with us online, please feel free to say hello in the comments, so we know you are here.

Children's Celebration: "The Sharing Song"

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Message: "Being the Light"

***Response:** "As with Gladness, Those of Old" (black hymnal #159)

Offertory: "King of Kings" CCLI: 7127647

***Presentation of our Offerings:** Doxology (black hymnal #780)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Prayers of the People

Communion

Invitation

One: Our faith is one of extravagant welcome. We honor God's table, open to all.

Many: We gather with all Creation.

Prayer

One: God be with you

Many: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

Many: We lift them up to God

One: Let us give thanks to God

Many: It is right to give thanks and praise

One: God of all creation, we give thanks for your continuous care. We praise the living, mortal example of your son, Jesus Christ, who offers a path to salvation. We honor the Holy Spirit, who reminds us of your truth, your presence and your promise.

Many: God of Love and Grace, the whole Universe speaks to your Glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God. Hosanna!

Setting the Table

One: We remember that on the night of his betrayal and desertion, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took

the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "this is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup, saying, "Drink this, all of you. This is the blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

One: This table is God's table, open to all creation. These elements are the body and blood of Christ, broken and poured for you. This faith we share is the Spirit, which unites us in Holy Communion. For this, we give thanks.

Many: We proclaim our continuing faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ, and offer our lives in service.

One: Let us pray the words Jesus taught us:

Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Call to the Supper

One: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

One: The cup is the communion of the blood of Christ.

One: Jesus, Lamb of God

Many: have mercy on us.

One: Jesus, bearer of our sins

Many: have mercy on us

One: Jesus, redeemer of the world

Many: give us your peace

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

Sharing the Elements

One: Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you.

Many: Amen!

One: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

Many: Amen!

***Closing Hymn:** "Sanctuary" (see insert)

***Benediction**

Postlude

* Please stand, in body or spirit

CCLI license number: 22384815, Size A; 22384822, Size A



Thank you for attending Ripley UCC. We're glad you came.
"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Special welcome to our friends from the United Methodist Church, who have come today to gather together, strengthen our bond, and worship as one body in the presence of Christ.

*Reader today was

*CE helper was Josh Youel

Find us online at www.ripleyucc.org, or by searching "Ripley United Church of Christ" on Facebook. Or join us for refreshments downstairs after the service. An elevator is available by the south door for those who need it.

Pr. Jim is available to the community at 515-708-4343 (text is best) or jimatripley@gmail.com



Sanctuary

by John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

Chorus:

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you

Verse 1:

It is you, Lord, who came to save
The heart and soul of every man
It is you, Lord, who knows my weakness
Who gives me strength with thine own hand

(chorus)

Verse 2:

Lead me on, Lord, from temptation
Purify me from within
Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit
Take away all my sin

(chorus x2)