**Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights, UCC**

**February 5, 2023**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**Welcome**

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

Call to worship, from Isaiah 58

One: Dear God, teach us how to fulfill your will.

**All: We desire to be your light in this world.**

One: Help us learn to break the chains of injustice.

**All: Help us to get rid of exploitation in the workplace.**

One: Help us to free the oppressed.

**All: Help us to cancel all debts owed to us.**

One: Help us to share our food with the hungry.

**All: Help us to invite the homeless poor into our homes.**

One: Help us, O Lord, to be available to your own families.

**All: We desire to be your light in this world. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer: Dear Father Mother Creator God, we humbly come before you this day to learn how to be your disciples, your servants. Help us to be the change we want to see in the world, rather than relying on the world to make changes without our participation. As we worship today, may we remember that it is not our piousness, and it is not our religious fervor that brings you closer. It is our love for you and your creation that fulfills our destiny. We rest in your arms, we lean on you. Amen.**

**Hymn –** Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, 560

**Children’s Sermon: How to let your light shine**

**Communion**

**Scripture Readings:** Matthew 5:13-20

**Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: Let It Shine**

**Hymn -** Light of the World

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

**Lord’s Prayer** (using debts/debtors)

**Offering**

**Doxology**

**Hymn –** Go, my Children, With my Blessing, 431

**Announcements**

**Commission and Benediction Postlude**

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**Manage your giving online:**

Community Congregational Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1) Visit the church website at **www.clintonheightsucc.org**,

2) Click on the **Donate Now** button,

3) Click on the **Create Profile** button, then

4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contribution.

# Matthew 5:13-20, The Message

**13**“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

**14-16**“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

**17-18**“Don’t suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures—either God’s Law or the Prophets. I’m not here to demolish but to complete. I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God’s Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God’s Law will be alive and working.

**19-20**“Trivialize even the smallest item in God’s Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom. Unless you do far better than the Pharisees in the matters of right living, you won’t know the first thing about entering the kingdom.

For The Children’s Sermon Slide

A picture containing wall, indoor

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