

**Sunday January 18, 2026**  
**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**We Gather In God's Presence**

**Prelude:** "Duetto Op 47 No. 15 Souvenir of Beethoven" Steven Heller

**Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship**

**Call to Worship**

What are you looking for?

**We are looking to be comforted.**

What are you looking for?

**We are looking for peace within our souls.**

What are you looking for?

**We are looking for salvation.**

Come and see; the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Let us worship the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed One of God!

**Hymn VU 415** "God, We Praise You for the Morning" Words: Jim and Jean Strathdee, 1984.

Music: Jim Strathdee, 1984. Words & Music © 1985 Desert Flower Music.  
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God, we praise you for the morning;  
hope springs forth with each new day,  
new beginning, prayer, and promise,  
joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation,  
mountains, seas, and prairie land.  
Waking souls find joy and healing  
in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion,  
all the loving that you show;  
human touching, tears, and laughter,  
help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit,  
Comforter and daily friend,  
restless searcher, gentle teacher,  
strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour,  
come that we may know your ways.  
In his loving, dying, rising,  
Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Christ is Lord of our days!

**Opening Prayer (*unison*)**

Holy One, You asked the two disciples what they were looking for and invited them to “Come and see.” You ask us the same question, and we have come to see. We have come to see and worship and pray and sing and hear your word for us this day. Yet despite our best intentions and efforts, when we leave here we will stumble, covet, deceive, perhaps even lie – in short, we will sin. Our only hope is that you, Lamb of God, have come to the world in order to save sinners, for we badly need saving. Save us, Lord Jesus. Save us from our sins and help our disbelief, our reluctance, and our misunderstandings that we might serve you all of our days as redeemed, forgiven believers. In your name we pray. Amen

**Anthem:** “We Will Be a Shelter for Each Other” Words: Tom Long Music: Allan Pote

**A New Creed VU 918**

We are not alone,  
we live in God’s world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God’s presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

**Hymn VU 560** “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” Words: Washington Gladden, 1879.  
Music: Henry Percy Smith, 1874.  
Words and Music in the Public Domain.

O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
teach me thy secret, help me bear  
the strain and toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move  
with some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee,  
in closer dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

in hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.

### **We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings**

#### **Responsive Reading: Psalm 40**

**You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify.**

I waited patiently for you, O God;  
you bent down and heard my cry.

**You lifted me out of the horrible pit,  
out of the miry clay,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

You put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.

**Many shall see and wonder,  
and will put their trust in you.**

**You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify.**

Blessed are those whose trust is in God,  
**who have not turned to the proud,  
not to those who follow a lie.**

O God, my God, you have multiplied your wondrous deeds  
**and your thoughts toward us;  
none can compare with you!**

I would proclaim and tell of them,  
**but they are more than can be numbered.**

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,  
**burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required.**

But you have opened my ears to hear  
 and I said: "Here I am,  
 ready to do what is written in the scroll of the book."

**I delight to do your will, O my God,  
 your law is in my heart.**

**You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify.**

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;  
 I did not restrain my lips, as you well know.

**I have not kept your goodness hidden in my heart,  
 but have spoken of your faithfulness and your saving help.**

I have not concealed your steadfast love,  
 nor your truth from the great congregation.

**Do not withhold from me your tender care, O God;  
 may your love and truth ever preserve me.**

**You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify.**

#### **Scripture: John 1:29-42 The Lamb of God & The First Disciples of Jesus**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter and means rock).

*The other lectionary readings for this week are: Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

**Sermon:** "Come and See"

**Hymn VU 597** "Simon, Simon, a Fisherman"

**LICENSING NOT AVAILABLE**

**PLEASE USE HYMN BOOKS**

## **We Respond To God's Grace**

### **Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

We have been blessed by God – with a new year, with new hope, with new opportunities, with skills and talents, with community, with family, with all that we have, even with life itself. In gratitude, we share those blessings with all around us, especially with those who are vulnerable and marginalized. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

**Offertory Hymn:** “Star of Wonder” Words: unknown. Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; in the Public Domain.

Star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Grant us God, the grace of giving  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Holy God, like Andrew, Simon Peter, and the others, we want to see what you are up to in the world. Like Andrew, Simon Peter, and the others, we want to take part in your mission to the world. Like Andrew, Simon Peter, and the others, we offer not only our material wealth, but our whole selves to you and to all those who need our support in the quest for justice, peace, and wholeness. Bless all that we offer, we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

God of heaven and earth, Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide, that, united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table, and serve you in common ministry.

Sovereign God, guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambitions and rule according to your example of distributive justice and compassion. Inspire them to strive for peace that all your children may dwell secure, free of war and injustice. We pray especially for the peoples of Iran and the United States of America, of Venezuela, Gaza, and Ukraine, and of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering. Give us, who consume most of earth's resources the will to reorder our lives, that all may have their rightful share of the food, water, medical care, and shelter we all need, and so may live a life of dignity.

Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship. Fill our hearts with your self-giving love, that our voices may speak your praise, and our lives may conform to the life of your Son. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments that we may faithfully minister in your name, and witness to your love and grace for all the world.

Look with compassion on all who suffer. Support with your love those with incurable and stigmatized diseases, those unjustly imprisoned, those denied dignity, those who live without hope, those who are homeless or abandoned, those living with addictions and/or mental health issues, those who mourn a loss; especially we think of the family and friends of Maxine Hart, Bill Tipping, and Barbara Thompson; those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially we remember Arnold, Butch, Cindy, Gloria, Julie, Rob, and their loved ones and their caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

As you have moved toward us in love, so lead us to be present with them in their suffering in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us to pray, saying,

**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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn VU 87** "I Am the Light of the World" Words and Music: Jim Stratthdee, 1967.

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"I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the shepherds  
have found their way home,  
the work of Christmas is begun:

"I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

To find the lost and lonely one,  
to heal the broken soul with love,  
to feed the hungry children  
with warmth and good food,  
to feel the earth below the sky above!

"I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

To free the prisoner from all chains,  
to make the powerful care,  
to rebuild the nations  
with strength of good will,  
to see God's children everywhere!

"I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

To bring hope to every task you do,  
to dance at a baby's new birth,  
to make music in  
an old person's heart,  
and sing to the colours of the earth!

"I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!"  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

In the power of the Holy Spirit,  
go into the world and fulfil your calling as disciples  
(which translated means students)  
of Christ Jesus, and

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
The love of God, and  
The communion of the Holy Spirit  
go with us all. Amen.**

**Sung Response: VU 886** "Arise, Shine" Refrain Music: Lawrence M. Probes, 1980.

Words: Public Domain. Refrain Music© 1989 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.  
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Arise, be clothed in the light.  
Arise, be clothed in the light.  
Your light has come.  
Your light has come.  
Hallelujah.

**Postlude:** "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" in a setting of J. S. Bach's *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*  
John B. Dykes. Arr. Cindy Berry

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Rev Mark** will be on vacation Monday, January 19 to Sunday, January 25 inclusive. For pastoral emergencies please contact Mary Dillon at 519-878-7134

**UNJPPI** (United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel) Presents

A series of nine 90-minute illustrated talks (one hour talk plus 30 minutes Q/A) that traces Zionist /Israeli efforts to occupy historic Palestine, dispossess the Palestinian inhabitants, and deny them human rights and self determination. The talks are introductory and non-academic, and no prior knowledge of the history of Palestine / Israel is necessary.

**When:** Thursdays from 7:00– 8.30 pm (Eastern) January 15 to March 12, 2026.

**To Register**, go to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSey6TNY9Jwl7VcjUrDaaPxMuyBbhS0zj-pzdigTolTojDEUHA/viewform>

**Central Board** meets Monday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.

**Lenten Study:** As we journey toward Lent, the new Lenten devotional [\*Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living\*](#) invites you to a spiritual practice of reflecting on food and hunger. What do you hunger for? How do you feed others? What feeds your soul? Whether reflecting individually or in a group, this resource helps us discover how every meal provides an opportunity to grow in faith. To deepen your experience, join Rev. Dr. Christine Jerrett for a six-week [online study on CHURCHx](#), on Tuesdays (2:00–3:00 p.m. ET), beginning February 24, focusing on themes of invitation, justice, and solidarity.

**Participants receive a 15% discount on the book, with additional bulk savings available for congregational study groups.** [Visit the United Church Bookstore to order your copy](#) or head to [CHURCHx to register for the series](#) today!

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## **Lectionary Readings:**

Sunday, January 25, Third after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, February 1, Fourth after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12