



“for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and
ready to relent from punishing.”
(Jonah 4:2b)

January 25, 2026
The Third Sunday After the Epiphany

(†) The congregation is invited to stand or (Sit with Gusto)
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Silent Prayer and Time for Centering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

Creator God, you are light in our darkness;
you are the morning rising in our night.

Your dawning touches our heart.

We turn to you.

We awaken.

Christ, light of the world, you call to us.

Your voice stirs in our hearts.

Our hopes catch fire.

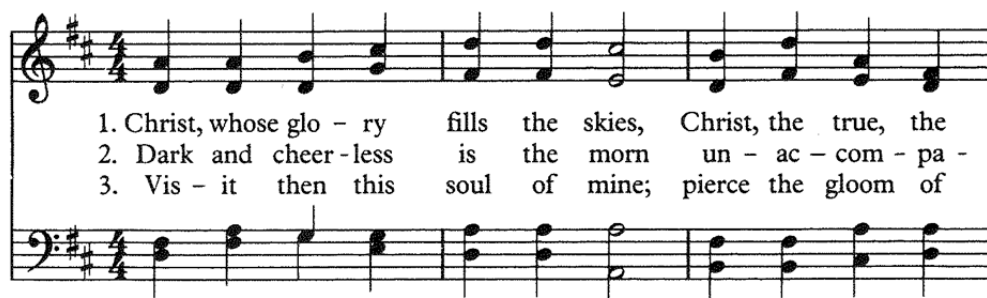
We want to follow you.

Holy Spirit, you are the rising sun in us
that brings us to new life.

Alleluia! May we shine with your light.

**Come, Holy Spirit,
and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!**

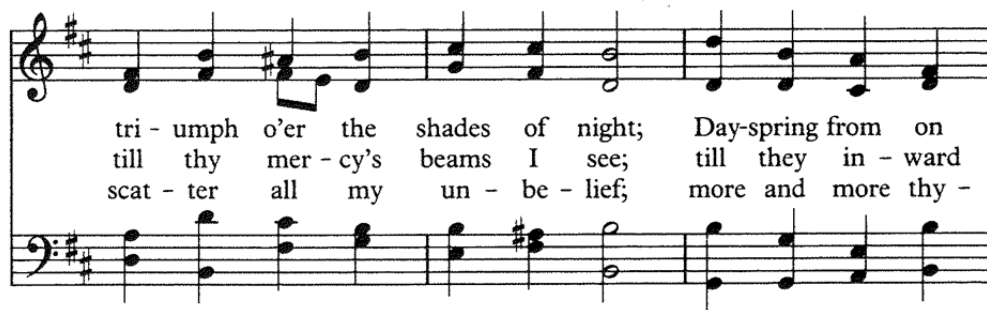
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 173



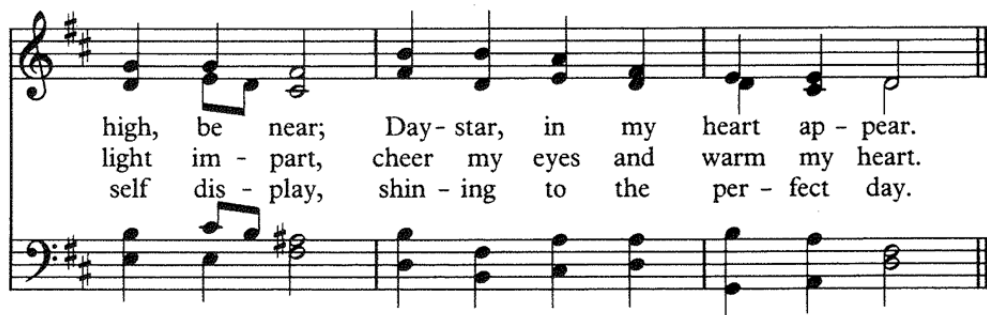
1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the
 2. Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - ac - com - pa -
 3. Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of



on - ly light, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, a - rise,
 nied by thee; joy - less is the day's re - turn,
 sin and grief; fill me, Ra - dian - cy di - vine,



tri - umph o'er the shades of night; Day-spring from on
 till thy mer - cy's beams I see; till they in - ward
 scat - ter all my un - be - lief; more and more thy -



high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
 light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
 self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1740
 MUSIC: J. G. Werner's *Choralbuch*, 1815; harm. by William H. Havergal, 1861

RATISBON
 77.77.77

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† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,
We often fail to understand the vastness of Your mercy.
We want your compassion for ourselves,
but hesitate to extend it to others.
Forgive us for the times we resist the paths
that lead toward reconciliation.
Forgive us when we prefer our own comfort
over the transformation you desire.
Forgive us for our reluctance to see others
as beloved children whom you long to save.
Teach us the ways of your mercy, O God.
Open our hearts to love as You love,
to forgive as You forgive,
and to rejoice in Your compassion
made known to all. Amen.**

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**God's compassion is deeper than our failures,
wider than our reluctance, and stronger than our sin.
In Jesus Christ, grace is given,
forgiveness is assured,
and we are invited again to walk in the way of mercy.
Thanks be to God!**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Jonah 4](#) (Pg. 753) **

But this was very displeasing to Jonah,
and he became angry.

He prayed to the Lord and said,

“O Lord! Is not this what I said
while I was still in my own country?

That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning,
for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
and relenting from punishment.

And now, O Lord, please take my life from me,
for it is better for me to die than to live.”

And the Lord said, *“Is it right for you to be angry?”*

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down
east of the city
and made a booth for himself there.

He sat under it in the shade,
waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush
and made it come up over Jonah,
to give shade over his head,
to save him from his discomfort,
so Jonah was very happy about the bush.

But when dawn came up the next day,
God appointed a worm that attacked the bush,
so that it withered.

When the sun rose,
God prepared a sultry east wind,
and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah
so that he was faint and asked that he might die.
He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah,

“Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?”

And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.”

Then the Lord said, *“You are concerned about the bush,
for which you did not labor and which you did not grow;
it came into being in a night and perished in a night.*

*And should I not be concerned about Nineveh,
that great city,
in which there are more than
a hundred and twenty thousand persons
who do not know their right hand from their left
and also many animals?”*

Thanks be to God

Anthem: *Thou Knowest Lord* Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers;
but spare us, Lord most holy,
O God most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Savior,
thou most worthy judge eternal,
suffer us not at our last hour,
for any pains of death,
to fall from thee. Amen.

Words: Book of Common Prayer (BCP), funeral sentences first used for the funeral of Queen Mary.

Music: Henry Purcell 1695; Words and Music, Public Domain

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

† HYMN OF PREPARATION

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 121

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good!
3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we should rest up-on God's word;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854

MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

WELLESLEY

87.87

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Alt. tune: IN BABILONE

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† GOSPEL LESSON:

[Matthew 4:12-23](#)

(Pg. 785) **

Christ revealed as a prophet

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested,
he withdrew to Galilee.

He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea,
in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,
so that what had been spoken
through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

*"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea,
across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles--
the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region
and shadow of death, light has dawned."*

From that time Jesus began to proclaim,

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee,

he saw two brothers,

Simon, who is called Peter,

and Andrew his brother,

casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen.

And he said to them,

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went from there,

he saw two other brothers,

James son of Zebedee and his brother John,

in the boat with their father Zebedee,

mending their nets, and he called them.

Immediately they left the boat and their father

and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee,

teaching in their synagogues

and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom

and curing every disease and

every sickness among the people.

PRESIDER: For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,

ALL: Thanks be to God!

† GLORIA PATRI

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

71

Glory Be to the Father

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.' The score consists of three systems of staves, each with four parts. The final measure of the third system is a double bar line with a repeat sign.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GREATOREX
Irr.

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SERMON: Ho-Soon Han

*“Journeying with Jonah:
FACING THE TRUTH”*

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

Would I Have Answered when You Called

1. Would I have answered when you called, "Come,
 2. Would I have fol - lowed where you led Through
 3. Would I have matched my step with yours When
 4. O Christ, I can not search my heart Through

fol - low, fol - low me!"? Would I at once have
 an - cient Gal - i - lee, On roads un - known, by
 crowds cried, "Cru - ci - fy!", When on a rock - y
 all its tan - gled ways, Nor can I with a

left be - hind Both work and fam - i - ly? Or
 ways un - tried, Be - yond se - cu - ri - ty? Or
 hill I saw A cross a - gainst the sky? Or
 cer - tain mind My stead - fast - ness ap - praise. I

would the old, fa - mil - iar round Have
 would I soon have hur - ried back Where
 would I too have slipped a - way And
 on - ly pray that when you call, "Come,

held me by its claim And kept the spark with -
 home and com - fort drew, Where truth you taught would
 left you there a - lone, A dy - ing king with
 fol - low, fol - low me!", You'll give me strength be -

in my heart From burst - ing in - to flame?
 not dis - turb The or - dered world I knew?
 crown of thorns Up - on a ter - r'ble throne?
 yond my own To fol - low faith - ful - ly.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007, © 1997, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: KINGSFOLD, CMD; English melody; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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PRAYER SONG

Lord Jesus Christ / Jésus le Christ

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The lyrics are in English and French. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are: Lord Je - sus Christ, your light shines with - in us. / Jésus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re, Let not my doubts nor my dark - ness speak to me. / ne lais - se pas mes té - nè - bres me par - ler. Lord Je - sus Christ, your light shines with - in us. / Jésus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re, Let my heart al - ways wel - come your love. / don - ne - moi d'ac - cueil - lir ton a - mour.

Text: Psalm 139; Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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SILENT PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG

(See Above)

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OFFERTORY MUSIC

† DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;
praise God, all crea - tures here be - low:

Harmony



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

Refrain (Harmony)



Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

† HYMN OF DEDICATION

Jesus Calls Us

398

1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
2. As of old the a - pos - tles heard it by the
3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5. Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in
may we hear thy call, give our hearts to

sweet voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"
toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more!"
cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these!"
thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852 (Mt. 4:18-22)
MUSIC: William H. Jude, 1874

GALILEE
87.87

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*Benediction

Voluntary

Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist:

Paul Blackadar

Video and Sound Engineer

Sam Tweedy

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***Worship elements by Steve Garnaas-Holmes at *unfoldinglight.com* & Ho Soon Han

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Looking Ahead

Readings for February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8 / Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 / Matthew 5:1-12



First United Methodist Church

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By Feeding the Body, Mind, and Soul

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