

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP Third Sunday after Epiphany January 25, 2026 9:15 AM Worship Express

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Ben Foltz

Acolytes: Slayton Hoverson

Ushers: Erik Foltz

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Be Thou My Vision”
Karen Warwick on Dulcimer

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING SONG: "Father, I Adore You"

**Vs. 1: Father, I adore You,
Lay my life before You.
How I love you.**

Vs. 2: Jesus

Vs. 3: Spirit

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

P: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

P: The word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

SONG OF PRAISE: “Love, Love, Love”

Vs. 1: Love, love, love! That’s what it’s all about!

**’Cause God loves us, we love each other,
mother, father, sister, brother.**

**Ev’rybody sing and shout,
’cause that’s what it’s all about!
It’s about love, love, love!
It’s about love, love, love!**

Vs. 2: Peace, peace, peace!

Vs. 3: Joy, joy, joy!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

GOSPEL SONG: “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

**Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp, and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine.**

The Good News is announced...

P: The Good News according to Matthew the 4th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

Narrator: When Jesus got word that John had been arrested, he returned to Galilee. He moved from his hometown, Nazareth, to the lakeside village Capernaum, nestled at the base of the Zebulun and Naphtali hills. This move completed Isaiah’s revelation: Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

road to the sea, over Jordan, Galilee, crossroads for the nations. People sitting out their lives in the dark saw a huge light; Sitting in that dark, dark country of death, they watched the sun come up. This Isaiah-prophesied revelation came to life in Galilee the moment Jesus started preaching. He picked up where John left off:

Jesus (Congregation) Change your life. God's kingdom is here.

Narrator: Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them,

Jesus (Congregation) Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.

Narrator: They didn't ask questions but simply dropped their nets and followed. ²¹⁻²² A short distance down the beach they came upon another pair of brothers, James and John, Zebedee's sons. These two were sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, mending their fishnets. Jesus made the same offer to them, and they were just as quick to follow, abandoning boat and father. ²³ From there he went all over Galilee. He used synagogues for meeting places and taught people the truth of God. God's kingdom was his theme—that beginning right now they were under God's government, a good government! He also healed people of their diseases and of the bad effects of their bad lives.

P: The Good News of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN'S WORD/ WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE WORD "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Vs. 1: I have decided to follow Jesus; (3x)

No turning back, no turning back.

Vs. 2: The world behind me, the cross before me; (3x)

no turning back, no turning back.

Vs. 3: Though none go with me, I still will follow; (3x)

no turning back, no turning back.

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence

P: Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: "Let Us Walk in the Light"

Verse: E A E E

1. Let us walk in the light of the Lord, Let us sing of God's

Refrain: A A/F# B7 E

love to all the earth. We are still on our way, we are

A/F# B7 E A B7 E

go-ing home to- geth-er; Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**Vs. 2: Let us live ev'ry day as our last
Fill each one with our laughter and our tears. Refrain...**

**Refrain: We are still on our way, we are going home together;
Let us walk in the light of the Lord**

**Vs. 3: Let us grow ever closer in love,
Give us hearts overflowing with your peace. Refrain...**

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 and ever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Let Streams of Living Justice" Holst