

18th January 2026



2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). In God's sovereignty, God has allowed other groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now.

Cantor: *Welcome and thank you for joining our service today. Today is the 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany. Please stand to sing our opening hymn.*

Opening Song: The Light of Christ

*The light of Christ has come into the world;
the light of Christ has come into the world.*

We all must be born again
to see the kingdom Of God;
the water and the Spirit
bring new life in God's love.

The light of Christ...

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Minister's Greeting

Grace and peace to you from the one who sits on the throne:

God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ.

Come and let us worship our God. **Praise our God for we are his servants.**

Blessed are those who fear him, **from the least to the greatest.**

Sentence of the Day

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
(1 Corinthians 1:9)

Prayer of Approach

*Deacon will lead us saying,
Let us prepare our hearts for worship,*

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

The Minister prays,

Almighty God, whose Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

The first reading is from the book of the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 49 verses 1 to 7.

¹Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. ²He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. ³He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendour."

⁴But I said, "I have laboured in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God." ⁵And now the Lord says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—⁶he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." ⁷This is what the Lord says—

the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: "Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

May your word live in us **and bear much fruit to your glory.**

The Psalm of the day is number 40, verses 1-14.

We will read this psalm in alternate verse.

¹I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.

**²He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.**

³He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

**⁴Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.**

⁵Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.

None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.

**⁶Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—
but my ears you have opened—
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.**

⁷Then I said, "Here I am, I have come—
it is written about me in the scroll.

**⁸I desire to do your will, my God;
your law is within my heart."**

⁹I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;
I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know.

**¹⁰I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;
I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness
from the great assembly.**

¹¹Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord;
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

**¹²For troubles without number surround me;
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.
They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.**

¹³Be pleased to save me, Lord;
come quickly, Lord, to help me.

**¹⁴May all who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion;
may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.**

Come, Holy Spirit, giver of life, breathe on your Church and make us a living people, holy and free. **Come Holy Spirit, bond of love, pour your love into our hearts that we may serve you with joy.**

The 2nd Reading is from 1st Corinthians, chapter 1 verses 1-9

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: ³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁴I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—⁶God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed are those who hear these words

and take to heart what is written, for the time is near.

The Deacon will announce the Gospel song,

Gospel Song: From Heaven You Came

From heaven You came, helpless babe,
entered our world, Your glory veiled,
not to be served but to serve,
and give Your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears
my heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' He said.

This is our God...

Come see His hands and His feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

This is our God...

So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone Him,
each other's need to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God...

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The Gospel of our Lord

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 1 verses 29 to 42. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

³²Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

³⁵The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

This is the Good News concerning our Lord Jesus Christ.

May our lives praise and honour his name.

Sermon: Rev Michael Birch will present the message

The Apostles' Creed

The Deacon will lead saying,

Let us affirm together the faith of the Church, the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 from the dead; he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Offertory Hymn: We've A Story to Tell

We've a story to tell to the nations,

That shall turn their hearts to the right,

A story of truth and sweetness,

A story of peace and light,

A story of peace and light.

For the darkness shall turn to dawning,

And the dawning to noonday bright;

And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,

The kingdom of love and light.

We've a song to be sung to the nations,

That shall lift their hearts to the Lord,

A song that shall conquer evil

And shatter the spear and sword,

And shatter the spear and sword.

For the darkness ...

We've a message to give to the nations,

That the Lord who reigns up above

Has sent us His Son to save us

And show us that God is love,
And show us that God is love.

For the darkness ...

Might come to the truth of God,
Might come to the truth of God.

For the darkness ...

We've a Savior to show to the nations,
Who the path of sorrow has trod,
That all of the world's great peoples

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The Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for God's mission and upcoming ministries

The rostered Intercessor will prepare prayers for our world, our community, those who are sick and those requiring specific needs.

Let us pray together,

Thank you, Eternal Father, for you have promised to not only hear our prayers, but to grant that what we have asked in faith we may obtain through the name of your Son Jesus our Lord. Amen.

We conclude by praying as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

The Deacon will lead our preparations saying,

We are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Confession and promise of forgiveness

In the presence of the One who walks amongst the seven lampstands in the temple of God, Jesus Christ the Son of God, let us bring our darkness to his radiant light, confessing our sins in repentance and faith,

**Holy God, we have disobeyed your commandments, we have resisted your call,
we have failed to live by your generous love.**

**We are sorry for all our sins, and ask you to forgive us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Minister will declare the promise of forgiveness:

You, who once were far away, have been brought near through the blood of Christ: He himself is your peace. Therefore, in Christ your sins are forgiven, and you are set free to live as examples of God's generous grace and kindness. Live, therefore, by the Spirit's transforming power, and forgive as you have been forgiven. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

We have been washed. We have been sanctified. Let us therefore share in the peace we have received.

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Thanksgiving and Communion

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

For he is the true High Priest, who walks amongst the lampstands in the temple of God

with the seven stars in his right hand. He is the one who made us a royal priesthood to serve you, our God and Father.

You anointed him as Messiah, the light of the nations,

and revealed him as the hope of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine,

and pray that we who receive them, in the fellowship of Holy Spirit,

according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,

and when he had given you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith,

We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.**

We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection,

may we who share these gifts be renewed by your Holy Spirit and united in the body of your Son.

Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom,

there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We who are many are one body in Christ. **For we all share in the one bread.**

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Announcements: Please refer to the church newsletter for notices.

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Almighty and eternal God, may we who have received this sacrament of your Son's body and blood worship you in all we do, proclaim your Word to our community, as living members of Christ's body.

Most loving God, **you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.**

The Benediction and Blessing

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all

generations, forever and ever. May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you, that your lives may be a light to the world, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: As With Gladness

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright:
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your glory see.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to your lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
one whom heaven and earth adore:
so may we with willing feet
ever seek your mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at your cradle rough and bare:
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last,
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide;

In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
you its light, its joy, its crown,
you its sun which goes not down.
There for ever may we sing
hallelujahs to our King.

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