



January 4, 2026
2nd Sunday of Christmas
w/Holy Communion

Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Ashton Olsen

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text*
*All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print Hymns: Please see an usher if you would like a copy of larger print hymns.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

Improvisation on "We Three Kings"

David Holden

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*I know a man of such
mildness and kindness it is trying to
change my life. He does not
preach, teach, but simply is. It is
astonishing, for he is Christ's ambassador
truly, by rule and act. But, more,*

*he is kind with the sort of kindness that shines
out, but is resolute, not fooled. He has
eaten the dark hours and could also, I think,
soldier for God, riding out
under the storm clouds, against the world's pride and unkindness
with both unassailable sweetness, and consoling word.
-Mary Oliver, On Thy Wondrous Works I Will Meditate 7.*

GATHERING

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 29

You, divine beings! Give to the LORD—

give to the LORD glory and power!

Give the glory due to God's holy name!

Bow down to the LORD in holy splendor!

Let the LORD give strength to the people!

Let the LORD bless the people with peace!

***OPENING HYMN**

#143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We have all sinned and not one of us is blameless; but there is abundant mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

God of grace, through prophets and apostles you have called us to share, yet so often we hoard what you have given us. You have provided for so many of us above and beyond what we need for food, water, and shelter, and we keep it for ourselves while others go hungry, thirsty, and cold. You have poured out grace, mercy, and love upon us, and too often we extend fear, envy, and scorn towards those around us. Most importantly you gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, that we might have life with you, and frequently we hold back at his name instead of sharing him with all the world. Forgive us, O God, and give us a spirit of repentance, that we might share generously out of the abundance we have from you. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, but we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Hear the good news, in the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Alleluia, Amen.

***RESPONSE**

The Gloria Patri #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

Since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As you spoke in the beginning, O God, speak your Word to us now and inspire us with understanding through your Spirit, that we might be faithful in our discipleship. In Christ's name, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

9 With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all

wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#138 Who Would Think That What Was Needed

GOSPEL READING

John 1: 1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Spirit Song

Wimber

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those
who have been delivered from death to life".
To give online, please scan the QR code.*



***DOXOLOGY**

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from The Westminster Confession of Faith

The Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof; yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy... every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS

#552 Holy, Holy, Holy

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is for the hungry and thirsty. It's a feast for those seeking God, in Christ, to be nourished for the life of love to which God calls us all. So come, eat, drink, and meet our Lord Jesus.

Please come forward to receive the elements. As you are served the bread you may eat it and as you are served the cup you may drink it. Please place your empty cup in the container provided. After you have been served you may return to your seat. **All bread is gluten/top 8 allergen free and all cups contain grape juice**, so that all people may eat the same loaf and drink from the same cup. Those unable to come forward to receive the elements will be served in their seat. We trust that as we are gathered around Christ's table we are also gathered in the Spirit with Christ and surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#156 Sing of God Made Manifest

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

As With Gladness Men of Old

Raymond Haan

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from Psalm 29.

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

MUSIC LICENSES

#143 Angels From the Realms of Glory. Stanzas 1–3, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; stanza 4, Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857. Henry Thomas Smart, 1867. Public domain.

#138 Who Would Think That What Was Needed. John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987. John L. Bell, 2005. Text © 1987, 2005 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Music © 1987, 2005 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

#156 Sing of God Made Manifest. Carl P. Daw Jr., 1990. Jakob Hintze, 1678; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach. Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Session Members ANNUAL REPORT Reminder: Christy needs your ANNUAL REPORT information this year a week ahead of what I have usually asked in the past. Please send me your reports and pictures (with necessary notes) that we can use in this report for 2025. **It would be appreciated if this information was submitted to me BEFORE SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th!** Thank you for helping me get this put together in time for the Annual Meeting.

Community Chili & Cornbread Supper: Another spaghetti supper is approaching on **January 31st from 5:00pm to 6:30pm**. Please sign up in the narthex if you are interested in helping with this event.

Service for Healing & Wholeness: Having a difficult winter or holiday season? Come seek the healing and wholeness that God can offer. Join us for our Service for Healing & Wholeness on **January 11th at 9:30am**.

How can we pray for you? Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



BPC Prayer List:

- Family of Larry Pattee
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Rich Dahl
- Mary Gillis, fighting cancer
- George, Elaine, and the Thole family following George's brother's death
- Dennis Stanley, fighting cancer
- Arthur James, Tanya's niece's baby
- Diane Ellis
- Family of Don Olsen
- Anne Marie Wille, Bonnie Morek's daughter
- Daniel & Gloria Elliot, Bonnie Morek's brother & sister-in-law
- Dennis Sletten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has a terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jim and Jodi Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.
For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

Upcoming This Week

Today

9:30a Worship with Communion
10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-
BPC Historical Artifacts

Monday

6:30p Prayer Shawl Group

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe
6:30p Faith Formation Committee Meeting

Wednesday

11:00am Personnel Committee Meeting
7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

7:30a People of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group

Sunday

9:30a Worship Service: Healing & Wholeness
10:30am: CCC: Conversations to go

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Brian Entz, Pastor
Mike Agre, Choir Director
Ralph Johansen, Organist
Mike Quady, Clerk of Session
Christy Wood, Administrative Assistant

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,


all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

138 Who Would Think That What Was Needed



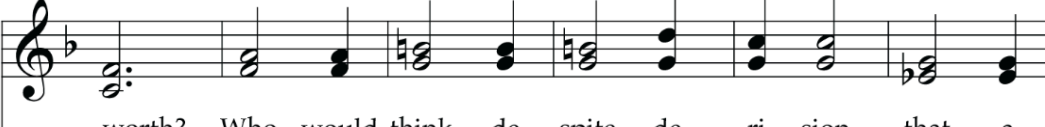
1 Who would think that what was need - ed to trans -
 2 Shep - herds watch and wise men won - der; mon - archs
 3 Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci - ence span the



form and save the earth might not be a
 scorn and an - gels sing; such a place as
 past from which we move, yet ex - pe - rience



plan or ar - my, proud in pur - pose, proved in
 none would reck - on hosts a ho - ly help - less
 ques - tions wheth - er, with such prog - ress, we im -



worth? Who would think, de - spite de - ri - sion, that a
 thing. Sta - ble beasts and by - passed strang - ers watch a
 prove. While the hu - man lot we pon - der, lest our

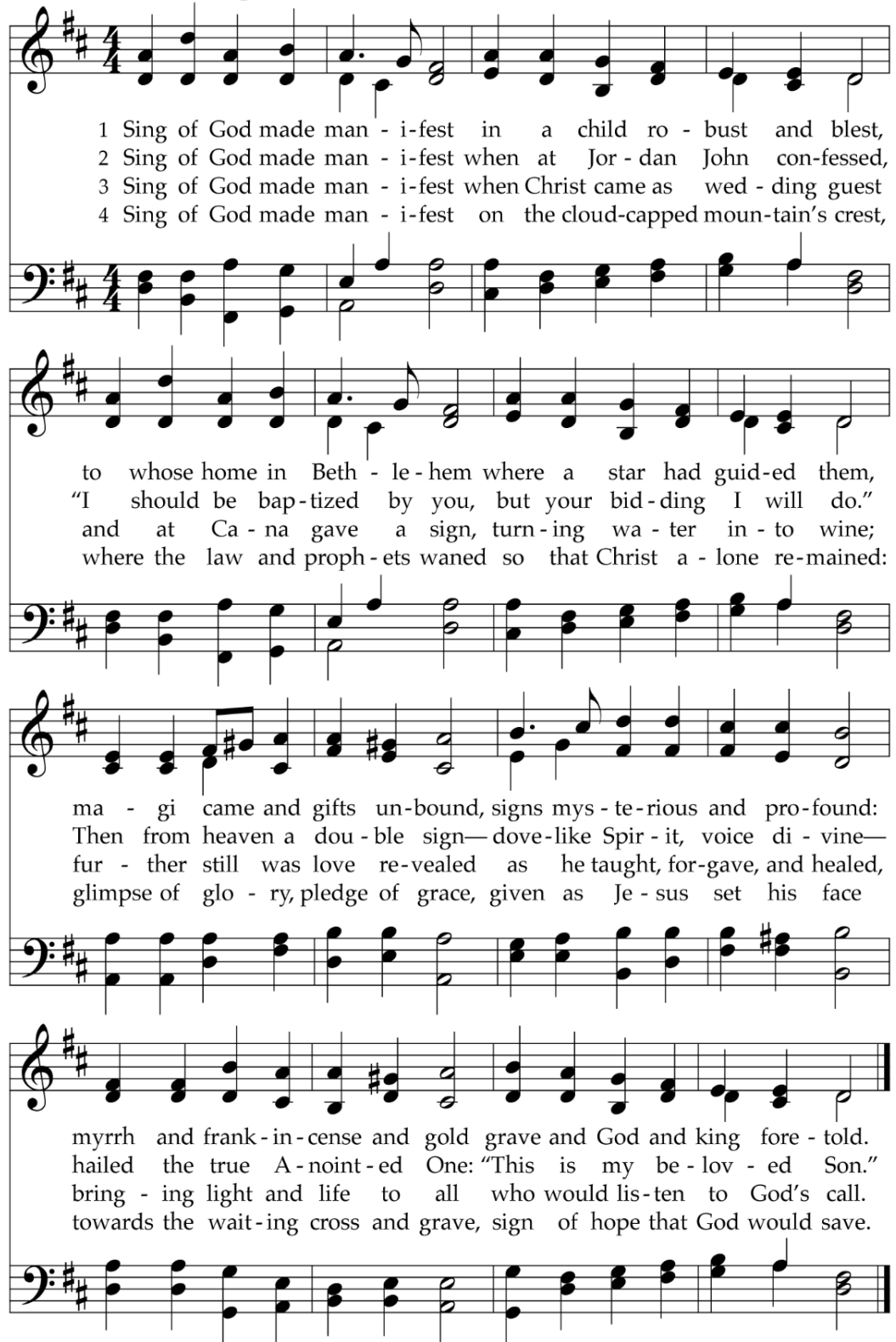
Hindsight is nearly always clearer than foresight, and with gentle good humor this Christmas hymn points out how great was the gap between human expectation and God's actual way of providing a means of salvation for us. God's ways continually exceed our claims to comprehend them.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

child should lead the way?
ba - by laid in hay; God sur - pris - es earth with
hopes and hu - mor fray,

heav - en, com - ing here on Christ - mas Day.

Sing of God Made Manifest 156



1 Sing of God made man - i-fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2 Sing of God made man - i-fest when at Jor - dan John con-fessed,
 3 Sing of God made man - i-fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
 4 Sing of God made man - i-fest on the cloud-capped moun-tain's crest,

to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid-ed them,
 "I should be bap-tized by you, but your bid-ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re-mained:

ma - gi came and gifts un-bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro-found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove-like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re-vealed as he taught, for-gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face

myrrh and frank-in-cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
 hailed the true A-noint-ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis-ten to God's call.
 towards the wait-ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation" or "showing forth," and this text cites key disclosures of Jesus as Messiah: the coming of the Magi, his baptism by John the Baptist, the wedding at Cana. All are summed up in the Transfiguration, recalled on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.