

St. John United Church of Christ
“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”

Jan. 25 & Feb. 1, 2026

3rd & 4th Sunday after the Epiphany(A)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

9:30 Sunday School for Children

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Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.

*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

*RESPONSE¹ ***“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”*** #489

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Alice Eloise’s Silver Linings: The Story of a Silly Service Dog

Written by Sarah Kathryn Frey & Illustrated by Kit Laurence Nacua

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PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER²

Come, all who have walked without light;

come to the light that lives among us in Jesus Christ.

God is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear?

God is the stronghold of my life; I shall not be afraid.

Come, all who have quarreled or slandered another;

come to be united in one mind, one mission.

God invites us to find life’s holy places;

we are welcomed to the joy and shelter of God’s care.

Come, all who would heed the invitation of Jesus;

come together, to follow Jesus into the world.

**God empowers us at the cross of Christ;
we are eager to receive good news to share.**

Together, let us pray:

Out of the shadows of our fears and our doubts, bring us to your light, Gracious God. Shine into the gloom of the world, where people do not see “silver linings” yet. Remove the chaos and confusion, the dissension and strife, that keep your children from the unity you intend. Equip us to spread the good news of the gospel and grant us courage to follow where Jesus leads. Amen.

*HYMN AND NOISY OFFERING

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

#470

RESPONSIVE READING

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalms 15:1-4
Micah 6:6-8

pg. 469
pg. 816

ANTHEM

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:12-23

pg. 3

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN ***"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"*** #347

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND SUNG RESPONSE
 "The Lord's Prayer" (1 amen) #740

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Above All*

*RESPONSE³ ***"For the Life That You Have Given"*** #684

***For the life that you have given,
for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor,
with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises;
heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you,
living what we pray and sing.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, you call us to follow you, to let loose of whatever might hold us back from serving you. With these gifts we release our desire to hoard our resources, and instead we offer them for the work of your church. Through them may the good news of your steadfast love fill your kingdom on earth with goodness. Amen.

INVITATION WITH SILENT CONFESSION AND PARDON

COMMUNION PRAYER

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The inner circle of cups contain white grape juice. The outer circles contain wine. Please hold each element when served in the pews so all may partake together, remembering that in the upper room last supper Jesus said, "take this and divide it among yourselves." (Luke 22:17b)

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In this Holy meal we have met you, the Holy One. And now we pray that your light will shine through us as light for the world. Renewed in spirit, we will honor you. We will do what

the prophet Micah declared you require of your people. We will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

*HYMN

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

#590

*POSTLUDE

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

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