

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

January 18, 2026

2nd 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

How Great Thou Art

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER²

People of God, called to be apostles of Jesus Christ:

Gather in the grace and peace that God provides.

***God puts a new song in our mouths;
we will sing of God’s wondrous deeds.***

Wait patiently for God, who hears our cries;

put your trust in God’s steadfast love.

***God’s law is written in our hearts;
we will delight in doing God’s will.***

Receive God’s saving help within your hearts;

acknowledge God’s gifts in all you do.

**God grants us spiritual gifts in abundance;
we will use them for the congregation of God's people.**

Together let us pray:

We listen once more for your call, O God, as your word summons us. You have been with us in times of joy and triumph and in seasons of despair and desolation. When we labor in vain, spending our strength without results, you preserve and encourage us. You do not give up on us. We rejoice in your faithfulness through all our days. Amen.

*HYMN

"Great Is the Lord"

#50

RESPONSIVE READING²

Based on Psalm 40:1-10

Patiently, we wait for God, who has heard our cries of pain.

From the pit, God rescues us, setting us on firm terrain.

We will sing our songs of praise, trusting God through all our days.

Blessed are all who trust in God, turning not to prideful ways,

Wondrous thoughts and deeds abound, setting hearts and lives ablaze.

Numberless, beyond compare, are God's deeds we now declare.

Sacrificial offerings from the past are not required,

But we take God's law within, doing deeds we've long admired.

God, whose will is our delight, shares good news we now recite.

God, whose steadfast faithfulness grants salvation day by day,

Opens hearts and lips with love, spoken 'mid the world's decay.

Congregations shall declare God's deliv'rance ev'rywhere.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

pg. 155

ANTHEM

Down to the River to Pray

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:29-42

pg. 86

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

#458

PASTORAL PRAYER & UNISON 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 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.

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *I Love to Tell the Story*

*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

While you do not require burnt offerings of sacrifice, O God, you do ask us to use the gifts you give us to share your steadfast love with everyone. Receive these offerings as signs of our commitment to partnership with Jesus in the work of righteous justice and equality, for the sake of all your children. Amen.

*HYMN ***“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”*** #500

*POSTLUDE *Hope of the World*

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We thank Betty Meszaros for serving as liturgist.