

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**10:30 a.m. Sunday 18 January 2026**  
**Second Sunday after the Epiphany/Human Relations Day**  
**(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:1/15-1/22)**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements *(To help us connect, please sign the attendance pad in your pew)*

\*Greeting: John the Baptist declared in John 1:  
*Here is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world!"*  
**Thanks be to God!**

\*Praise Choruses: 2071 "Jesus, Name above All Names"  
2050 "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

Noting the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January)

Recognition of Human Relations Day

Reflections on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

\*Opening Hymn: 519 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination: Page 6

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalter: 774: Psalm 40:1-11

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

\*Hymn of Preparation: 357 "Just As I Am"

\*Gospel Lesson: John 1:29-42

(2)

Sermon

\*Affirmation of Faith: 886 "The World Methodist Social Affirmation"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

\*The Peace: Let us offer one another  
signs of reconciliation and love.  
The peace of Christ be with you,  
**and also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING**

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,  
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

\*Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession\*\*:  
Let us pray in Christian unity. O God,  
**You love justice and establish peace on earth.  
We bring before you the disunity of today's world;  
the absurd violence, and the many wars,  
which are breaking the courage  
of the people of the world:  
militarism and pollution, which threaten life  
on the planet  
human greed and injustice, which breed  
hatred and strife.**  
For what else shall we pray? (*prayers welcomed*) ;  
Send Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth;  
Teach us to be compassionate  
towards the whole human family;  
**Strengthen the will of all those  
who fight for justice and for peace;  
lead all nations into the path of peace,  
and give us that peace which the world cannot give.**

(3)

**We offer ourselves and our gifts in the name  
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.** (*World Council of Churches : Textes liturgiques:  
Louons Dieu et celebrons la vie (C) Masamba ma Mpolo  
Mengi Kilandanoko, Zaire 1988, alt.*)

\*The Lord's Prayer: 895

**SENDING FORTH**

\*Closing Hymn: 2130 "The Summons"

\*Blessing: 106 "God Is Able"

\*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude

\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

\*\**Resources from the website of the World Council of Churches,  
used 15 January 2008 at the meeting of the Northeast Ministerium,  
held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Harford Rd )*