

BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10:30 a.m. Sunday 25 January 2026

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

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

*Greeting**:

For it is the God who said,
"Let light shine out of darkness,"
who has shone in our hearts
**to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.** *(2 Corinthians 4:6)*

*Praise Choruses: 2003 "Praise You"
2101 "Two Fishermen"

*Opening Prayer**:

Almighty and everlasting God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you created us for yourself,
so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.
**Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose
that no selfish passion may hinder us
from knowing your will,
and no weakness from doing it.
In your light may we see life clearly
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
(The Book of Worship 1965, Alt.)

*Opening Hymn: 57 "O, for A Thousand Tongues to Sing"

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination: 361 *(Verse 1 only)*
"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4

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Psalter: *(Insert, alternate leader and people):* Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

*Hymn of Preparation: 348 "Softly and Tenderly"

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon

*Affirmation of Faith: 881 "The Apostles' Creed,
Traditional Version"

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

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

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession**:

Spirit of promise, Spirit of unity,
we thank you that you are also the Spirit of renewal.
**Renew in the whole Church
that passionate desire for the coming of your kingdom
May we all grow up together into him who is our head,
the Savior of the world.
We offer ourselves and our gifts in his name. Amen.**
(Olive Wyon, England, 20th Cent., Alt.)

*The Lord's Prayer: 895

(3)
SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn: 396 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

*Blessing**:
The Lord bless you and keep you;
**the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.**
Amen. (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude/Going Forth

*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

**THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP

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