

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday of Christmas

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Gracious Lord, clear a path through the tensile and dust of Christmas and lead us into this new year with hope. Regardless of how we wander and wonder which direction we should take in the days ahead of us, enlighten the eyes of our hearts with your truth that we may find comfort in your Word this morning, sharing praises and song with this our Christian family. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God has been good for us.

All: We will offer to God our love and praise.

One: Give thanks for the bounty God supplies. Gain strength from the peace God offers.

All: God’s word fills us with radiance. Our hearts dance with joy.

*OPENING HYMN

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Lt. Blue Songbook #50

*CALL TO CONFESSION

May we find solace again in finding you among the ordinary “stuff” of our lives. The season of Christmas with all its hectic worrying about right or wrong things to give, darkens the hearts of some even among the joy of others. Bring us back to your Way as we silently pray that you will forgive our moments of forgetting why you created us and to whom we belong.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“Change My Heart, O God”

Lt. Blue Songbook #61

Singing: Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay,
Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus the Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

. . . to Proclaim God’s Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60: 1-6

p. 690

SECOND READING

Psalms 72: 1-7; 10-14

p. 533

ANTHEM

“Come to The Water”

Choir

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2: 1-12

p. 2

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Light Dawns”

Pastor Judy Sibley

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

#267

. . . to Give Thanks to God . . .

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

THE OFFERTORY

*OFFERING RESPONSE

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#592

Singing:

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those of us who have much embrace from our abundance those who have little. Those of us who have little give with joy for others to receive what we can offer. Lord, receive this offering for the good and welfare of all in need of your mercy, your light, and the dawning of a new day of blessings. Our hearts are made full in giving. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our 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.

*COMMUNION HYMN

“Come, Share the Lord”

Lt. Blue Songbook #126

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: ... Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

One: ... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Let us keep the feast.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

... *and to Be Sent in God’s Name*

*CLOSING HYMN “We Three Kings” #66

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION “Go with God”
Lt. Blue Songbook #138

Singing: Go with God. Go with God.
As you leave this place, go with God.
God will direct your way, God will light ev’ry day.
As you leave this place, go with God.

POSTLUDE

The Upper Room

“From Fear To Faith”

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Read Colossians 1: 15-17

“By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible.”

---Colossians 1:16 (KJV)

Shortly after our daughter was born, while my husband was holding her and offering her a bottle, the nurse noticed that our baby was struggling to breathe. Pushing my husband aside, the care team quickly surrounded our tiny baby who was in distress and admitted her to the NICU.

Later, after visiting her, I left the hospital with a heavy heart and racing thoughts. I felt helpless as a mother. As I was driving away from the hospital, looking straight ahead, I had an unobstructed view of the glistening sea and the beautiful blue sky. In that moment, I was keenly aware of God’s Spirit, assuring me that God is the Creator of all things. Surely I could trust God to take care of my daughter, whom God had also created.

My heart lifted, and my worries turned to praise for the God who knows me, sees me, and cares for me. God’s presence with me strengthened my heart and shored up my faith. Even now, 40 years later, when we celebrate our daughter’s birthday, I still recall that day. And I praise God all over again for being with me and with her that day and every day.

Prayer: “Dear heavenly Father, thank you for knowing us and for being with us always.” Amen.

--Amy C. (Virginia, USA)

Thought for the Day:

“I am known, seen, and cared for by God.”

(If you would like to read **The Upper Room** each day, you may pick up a copy in the narthex.)

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