

Online Worship Service – February 1, 2026

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who lived in a land of deep shadow—
on them light has shined.**

Not from the centers of power, not from places of certainty or control,
**but from the margins, from Galilee of the nations,
from places long overlooked.**

Come, open your eyes. Come, open your hearts.

The kingdom of heaven has come near!

Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison

God of light and life, we confess that we often live as though the darkness has the final word. We grow accustomed to despair. We mistake cynicism for wisdom and silence for safety. We turn our eyes away from suffering we did not cause but could help to heal. We hesitate to hope when hope feels costly. We resist change of heart and imagination when the familiar feels easier than the faithful. Forgive us, O God. Awaken us. Turn us again toward the light already breaking into the world. Give us new eyes to see your kingdom near at hand, and the courage to live as participants in its coming. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Silent prayers of confession]

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Responsive

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

In Jesus Christ, God does not condemn the world, but comes near to redeem it.

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAISE HYMN

Celtic Alleluia

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

1st SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:1-4 (Pew Bible, pp. 624-625)

2nd SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 4:12-23 (Pew Bible, pp. 881-882)

PROCLAMATION Seeing the Light in the Darkness

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Unison

We believe in God, the Source of light and life, who does not deny the darkness of the world but enters it with steadfast love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Light who comes near in ordinary places, who walks the margins, who calls us not with shame but with invitation — to turn, to see differently, to trust that God’s reign is already taking shape among us.

We believe that repentance is not fear, but reorientation; not despair, but awakening; not withdrawal from the world, but deeper participation in its healing.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who trains our vision, stirs our imagination, and gives us courage to live toward justice even when the road ahead is unclear.

We believe that light is stronger than darkness, that hope is not naïve, that love is never wasted, and that the kingdom of heaven has come near — calling us to embody the grace we have received.

We trust this promise, we walk by this light, and we offer our lives to the glory of God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE 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.**

CHARGE & BENEDICTION