

# January 25, 2026

## Third Sunday after Epiphany

### PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

More Love to Thee

Van Denman Thompson

### WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #399

God Welcomes All

Themba Amen

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

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### \*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 27)

One: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**All: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"**

One: We gather, with faith, in the presence of God.

**All: Let us open our hearts and minds in worship.**

### \*GATHERING SONG #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
(verse 1)

Nettleton

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach  
me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the  
mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*  
(verse 2)

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy  
good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a  
stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.*  
(verse 3)

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace  
now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander,  
Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and  
seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

### CALL TO CONFESSON

One: Together, let us confess the sins that have kept us from recognizing  
God's blessing and enjoying God's presence:

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSON

Gracious God, when despair and suffering overwhelm us, we cry out for  
you and feel unmoored. We doubt your presence and your promises. We  
ask why you have forsaken us. In these moments, strengthen us in faith  
and fill our hearts with courage. We believe, God. Help our unbelief.

(Time of Silence)

\*Please stand as you are able.

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (from Psalm 103)**

One: "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **\*SONG OF RESPONSE #469**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying      Children Praying  
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.*

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## **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: In Christ we discover a peace that surpasses all human understanding. Let us share that same peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And, also, with you.**

## **UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God of epiphanies, you reveal yourself to us in diverse and numerous ways; in daylight and darkness. Free us the distractions that turn our focus away from you and your Word. Open us to the truth you would reveal to us today. Amen.**

## **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING      *John 3:1-10***

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup>

## **RESPONSIVE PSALM READING**

*Psalm 139:13-18*

One: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**All:** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

One: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**All:** Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

\*Please stand as you are able.

One: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

**All:** I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

### CHORAL ANTHEM

*The Potter's Hand*

*Zschech*

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *John 3:11-21*

**11** Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

**16** 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**17** 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. **20** For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. **21** But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

### THE MESSAGE

*"Loving So Much"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

### UNISON PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Creating God, you gave us new life when we were born of water and Spirit. Help us live into that new life, refreshed and renewed due to your work among the people you love. Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORDS PRAYER

### CALL TO OFFERING

*We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.*

### OFFERTORY

*Andante Cantabile*

*Johann Krieger*

### \*DOXOLOGY #748

*God with Us, Lord*

*Tallis' Canon*

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and  
every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true  
our lives may be our gift to you.**

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### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*SENDING SONG #488**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry  
(verse 1)*

Waterlife

**“I was there to hear your borning cry; I’ll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.”**

*(verse 2)*

**“When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.”**

*(verse 3)*

**“In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.”**

*(verse 4)*

**“I was there to hear your borning cry; I’ll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.”**

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**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

**\*FINAL BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*To God Be the Glory*

*Edward Broughton*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Knitting For Others**

Inviting all folks from 12-100 years of age, who like to knit or who would like to learn, to be a part of Valley's Knitting Group.



**The group will meet Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:  
January 25**

This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but have not used quite all of the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. If you have any bulky size-5 or 6 yarn that you will not be using and could share with Knitting for Others, we certainly would appreciate your donation. Yarn can be left in the box marked "yarn" in the Library. Thank you so much for your help.

For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl  
502-553-7255

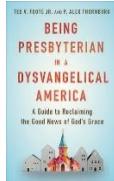
Bev Keough  
330-888-5385

## Notice of Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will take place on Sunday, February 1, immediately after the worship service. Please plan to attend, if you are able.

## Book Study – *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America*



In *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America*, Ted V. Foote Jr. and P. Alex Thornburg speak directly to Presbyterians who are disillusioned and confused by how Christianity is being misused in American culture. So often, our beliefs as faithful Christians do not line up with the shouted chants and disturbing actions taken by those claiming to represent a true vision of Christianity.

This will be a hybrid study format (in-person in the church library and on-line) – meeting on Monday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. Books will be available in the church office for \$15.

### **Meeting Dates**

February 2 and 16, March 2, 16, and 30

## CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



**Fresh meats, eggs, butter, flour, or anything you would like to donate.**

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations. You can, also, leave them in the blue donation bin in the Narthex.

## Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

**Friday, February 6**

(1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

**Saturday, February 7**

(10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or [passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com](mailto:passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com).

## Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

**Credit card** donations are available on-line at the Valley Presbyterian website below:

<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Look for “Give Now” button. Can only be used for donations.

Can not pay for holiday flowers, VBS, books, etc. at this link.

Use the following QR Code to donate via **Zelle**:



**VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

[www.valleypresbychurch.org](http://www.valleypresbychurch.org)

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

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Liturgist: Nancy Sullivan

Organist: John Kautzman  
Greeter: Lillian Smyser