

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 1, 2026

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Obenschain

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

—Isaiah 60:1-3, NIV

INVOCATION

Susan Obenschain

O God,
you spoke your Word
and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ.
Fill all creation with that Word again
so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations
and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples,
we may become one living body,
your incarnate presence on the earth. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN 64 *All Creatures of Our God and King*

CONFESSING: *God invites us to be honest with Him*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Susan Obenschain

Our Lord Jesus said:
“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.’
This is the greatest and first commandment.
And a second is like it:
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
On these two commandments
hang all the law and the prophets.”
As God has instructed us in these great commandments,
and because we have not lived in full obedience,
let us now confess our sins to God,

trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.
—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Susan Obenschain

O God, our guide,
who once used a star to lead people to Christ,
we confess our poor sense of direction.
We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way.
We fail to follow the signs you provide.
Forgive our waywardness, O God.
Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you. **Amen.**

TIME FOR SILENT CONFSSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Susan Obenschain

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God.

—John 1:9, 12, NIV

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God*

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men*

OFFERING: Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

INVITATION The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;
the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ,
we have opportunity to share out of our abundance.

—based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, NRSV

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Be Still and Know* *Steven Curtis Chapman*

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, you have given us life,
a place to live in,

and people to live with.
Open our eyes to each other
and to all our brothers and sisters,
especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated.
Make us humble enough to help and comfort them,
so that your love and justice and peace may come to them.
We make bold to consecrate ourselves and our gifts
to you and to the service of others,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You
All: And also with you*

 **PREPARATION HYMN 381**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

PROCLAIMING: God speaks to us through His Work

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

SERMON

“The Great Adversative” Rev. Dan Stewart

HYMN OF RESPONSE 462

Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Pastoral Prayer

(Feel free to use your own prayer here instead of what is printed, No one will know but you)

Holy God, you are mighty in power yet abounding in mercy.
While our world was marred with sin,
so much so that we had no hope of redemption,
you made a covenant with your people.
You promised to renew your creation.
You promised to give hope amid the sorrow,
healing in place of sickness, wholeness in place of emptiness.
You stepped into our darkness in the person of Jesus Christ.
Our Lord and Savior lived among us.
He, God before the beginning of time,
willingly came to live at a specific place in a specific time.
He came quietly to a young unwed mother
through the power of your Holy Spirit.
He experienced our human joys and sorrows.
The Lord of the universe became a helpless boy.
He ate, he drank, he grew.
He was like us but without sin.
Then the King of kings showed us how to live.
He healed the sick, cared for the least of society, and took time for children.
He forgave sins and performed miracles.
He loved, and he served.
He gave up his very life for his friends.
He died the excruciating, disgraceful death of a criminal for us.
Yet you raised him out of the tomb.
He triumphed over death so that we too may live.
On the night before our Lord died, he ate with his disciples.
As we so often do, Jesus began with prayer.
He took the bread and the cup, and he shared them with his friends,
saying, "This is my body given for you. This cup is poured out for you.
My body and my blood are given for the forgiveness of your sins.
Do this in remembrance of me."
So, loving God, we do, in obedience to your command,
eat the bread and drink from the cup.
As we do, we remember with awe and gratitude
the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of all, Savior, Anointed One.
We rejoice that your great love through our Redeemer's sacrifice has set us free
and given us hope for a future with you.
Until our Lord Jesus returns to establish his kingdom without end,
we will joyfully proclaim his death and resurrection.

Distribution of the Elements

The Words of Jesus.....

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

People: **Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!**

RESPONDING: *We respond to God's Word*

PROFESSION OF FAITH (Apostle's Creed, In Unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

COMMISSIONING: *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

 **COMMISSION HYMN 345** *Blessed Assurance*

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

 *Please stand if you are able.*