

# Wonder Church

**February 1, 2026**

The 4th Sunday After the Epiphany

## **GATHER IN THE LORD'S NAME**

### **Prelude**

### **GROUP REFLECTION**

Gather in the nave before the service. Father Bob will give you a Gospel-related question or topic to reflect upon and discuss with your fellow congregants.

### **GATHERING MUSIC**

### **Morning Has Broken**

*Please stand as you are able to sing. All are invited to play musical instruments.*

Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day

Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

### **THE COLLECT**

*Remain standing. We say the words in bold together.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

**Almighty God,**

to you all hearts are open,

**to you all hearts are open,**

all desires known,

**all desires known,**

and from you no secrets are hid:

**and from you no secrets are hid:**

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**

that we may perfectly love,

**that we may perfectly love,**

and worthily magnify your holy Name;

**and worthily magnify your holy Name;**

through Christ our Lord.

**through Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 15**

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*

**who may abide upon your holy hill?**

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*

**who speaks the truth from his heart.**

3 There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; \*

**he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*

**but he honors those who fear the Lord.**

5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*

**and does not take back his word.**

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*

**nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

7 Whoever does these things \*

**shall never be overthrown.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

## **Matthew 5:1-12**

*Remain standing as you are able.*

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward

is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Gospel Discussion and Homily**

**Rev. Bob Farrow**

### **THE CREED**

*Please stand as you are able. We say the words in bold together.*

We believe in God, **our Father in heaven.**

We believe in God, **who made the world.**

We believe in God, **who gives us life and helps us grow.**

We believe in Jesus, **the son of God and the son of Mary.**

We believe in Jesus, **who shows us that God is love.**

We believe in Jesus, **who lived and died for us.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who helps us love others.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who makes us holy.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who helps us to know God.**

We are God's family, **the church.**

We are God's family, **forgiven through Jesus Christ.**

We are God's family, **at home with God for ever and ever. AMEN.**

## **PRAY FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR THE WORLD**

### **The Prayers of the People - Form III**

*The people stand or kneel as they are able.*

Loving God, we pray for your holy Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Help us to serve you.

**That you may be praised.**

We give thanks for the mission of the church. We pray for all clergy;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all the leaders of the world.

**That there may be justice and peace.**

I ask your prayer for those who are sick or in need, especially April, Cynthia and her family, Emmie, Dianne, Christine, Emily, Hudson, the family and friends of Peggy, and Kenny and his family. Are there others in need of prayer?

*You may share your prayers silently or aloud.*

Lord, have compassion on those who suffer;

**That they may be healed.**

I ask your prayers for those who have died. Are there people you would like to pray for?

*You may share your prayers silently or aloud.*

**Let your light shine upon them. AMEN.**

## **THE CONFESSION**

Most merciful God,

**Most merciful God,**

We confess that we have sinned against you

**We confess that we have sinned against you**

In thought, word, and deed.

**In thought, word, and deed.**

Have mercy on us and forgive us.

**Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **AMEN.**

## EXCHANGE THE PEACE

*All stand for the peace.*

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

**February Birthdays:** Alice Taylor, Sue Halmrast, Kenny Hall, Kevin Anderson, Bob McCracken

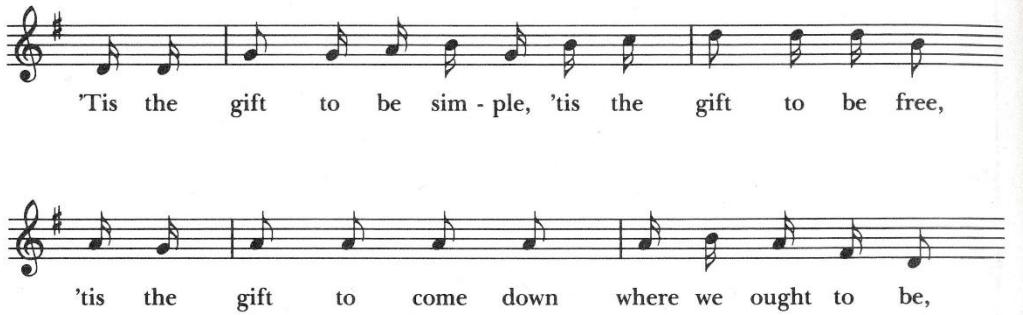
**February Anniversaries:** Bobo & Barbara Morgan

## OFFERTORY

*It's the first Sunday of the month! All loose offerings will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. One of the ways we share the love of Christ for all people is by assisting our Harris County neighbors with rent and utilities - and the need has been great this winter; the fund is very low at the moment!*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

**Simple Gifts** (Sing through twice)



and when we find our-selves in the place just right,

'twill be in the val-ley of love and de-light.

When true sim - plic - i - ty is gained to

bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed, to turn, turn, will

be our de-light till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

Words: Shaker song, 18th cent.

Music: *Simple Gifts*, Shaker melody

Irr. with Refrain

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

### The Presentation

We will sing the Doxology as we make our way forward to surround the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer and the Ushers bring up the offering baskets. Stand two deep in a semi-circle as you are able - or remain seated until communion.

## The Doxology

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

## The Eucharistic Prayer - Adapted Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People.** **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you, Father, Creator of all.  
You made everything and you made us. You called us to new life in Jesus.

And so we praise you, singing with the angels, and the saints, and all of heaven:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy Father, you love us so much, you made us to be with you; and even when we all turned away from you and your love, you came toward us. You sent Jesus, your Son, who became human, like us. Jesus said such amazing things and did such wonderful things, that people began to follow him. He turned us back to you.

On the night before Jesus died on the cross, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and shared it with his friends, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

Then he lifted up the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with them, and said, "Take, drink, this is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

So, let's celebrate the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy Spirit, make these gifts holy, to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and never-ending life in him. Make us holy too, so we can receive the bread and wine and live in peace.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, God, now and for ever.

**AMEN.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray together in the words Jesus taught us:

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. AMEN.**

## **BREAK THE BREAD**

Alleluia, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore, let us keep the feast, alleluia.**

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

## **Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling**



1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,  
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,  
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing,  
4. Oh! for the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised,



1. Call - ing for you and for me; \_\_\_\_ See, on the por - tals He's  
2. Plead - ing for you and for me? \_\_\_\_ Why should we lin - ger and  
3. Pass - ing for you and for me; \_\_\_\_ Shad - ows are gath - er - ing,  
4. Prom - ised for you and for me; \_\_\_\_ Though we have sinned, He has

1. wait-ing and watch-ing, Watch-ing for you and for me. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. heed not His mer-cies, Mer-cies for you and for me? \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. death beds are com-ing, Com-ing for you and for me. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. mer-cy and par-don, Par-don for you and for me. \_\_\_\_\_

Come home, come home, come home,

Words: Will L. Thompson (1847-1909)  
 Music: Will L. Thompson

Ye who are weary, come home! \_\_\_\_\_ Ear-nest-ly, ten-der-ly, \_\_\_\_\_

Je-sus is call-ing, Call-ing, O sin-ner, come home! \_\_\_\_\_

## SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you.

*All people are invited to receive Communion. Extend two hands if you wish to receive the bread and the wine; one hand if you want bread only. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. The clergy will stand by the first pews and you can make your way to them to receive communion and then return to your pews.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Standing or kneeling.

Loving God,

**Loving God,**

we give you thanks for feeding us with spiritual food,

**we give you thanks for feeding us with spiritual food,**

the bread of life and cup of salvation,

**the bread of life and cup of salvation,**

Christ's Body and Blood.

**Christ's Body and Blood.**

Now send us forth a people

**Now send us forth a people**

forgiven, healed, renewed;

**forgiven, healed, renewed;**

that we may share your love and joy

**that we may share your love and joy**

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior,

**and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.**

## **BLESSING**

*Please stand for the blessing.*

## **CLOSING HYMN**

### **Tell Out My Soul**

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

## **DISMISSAL**

Reader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Room,**  
to the left as you exit the nave.

*St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.*

*Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.*

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## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for April Moore, Cynthia Fest and the family of Jay and Riley-Anne Johnson, Emmie Brand, Dianne Abernethy, Christine Risdon, Emily Minton, Hudson Garrett, the grieving family and friends of Peggy Gjertsen, and Kenny Hall and his family. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our beloved homebound congregants: Mike Sawyer and Liz Dixon.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.

## UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

- FEB 2: Office closed
- FEB 4: St. Nicholas Book Club meets after Evening Prayer
- FEB 8: Scouting Sunday - invite current and former Scouts/ and leaders!
- FEB 15: Vestry meets after the service
- FEB 17: St. Nicholas Mardi Gras celebration 5:30 p.m.
- FEB 18: Ash Wednesday service at noon

## VESTRY

Drucye Cox, Senior Warden  
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry, Steve  
Morse, Linda Pace,  
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

## MINISTERS THIS WEEK

Lector: Alex Garrett  
Usher: Alex Garrett and Jim Gilliam  
Virtual Ministers: Katherine Johnson  
Eucharistic Minister: Drucye Cox  
Crucifer: Martha Dimon  
Flowers: Barbara Bradley

The **St. Nicholas Book Club** selected *Theo of Golden* by local author Allen Levi for February. A couple of copies are available on the table in the narthex. The Book Club next meets on February 4 after Evening Prayer [sorry for the mistake last week!]. See the newsletter for more.

**Scouting Sunday is February 8!** If you have any Scouts or Scout leaders in your family - current and former - that would like to join us for recognition and small reception after the service, please invite them!

St. Nicholas' **world-famous Mardi Gras party** is February 17 at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy the music and food of New Orleans! Please sign up in the narthex to bring a Cajun or Creole dish to contribute to the covered-dish dinner. See your newsletter for more details.

Get ready for the **Hunger Walk** - more information coming soon, or see your newsletter. (Sneak peek: You don't have to walk!)

The new **Forward Day By Day** is available. We provide this publication to our parishioners as a simple and effective daily prayer practice. Each day features a Bible verse and a related reflection written by a different author each month, all in less than 200 words. It includes feast days, as well as prompts to take faithful action in your daily life.



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