



CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday after Christmas
Epiphany Celebration

January 4, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

"We Three Kings"

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you

****Call to Worship**

L: Come with your questions

All: but not with pre-conceived answers.

L: Come looking for the One God sends

All: without deciding in advance who it will be.

L: Come seeking an experience

All: even if its meaning is a mystery.

L: Come and be open to what God will do!

****Hymn - # 673**

"Jesus, Light of Joy"

Call to Confession, followed by Silence for Reflection and Prayer

Common Prayer of Confession

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

L: You send your witnesses, Lord God, who testify to the wonders they have seen.

All: We confess that we're not sure we trust them.

There's so much fake news and so many influencers—

We know not to take someone's word for it. Sometimes we're not sure what to believe.

**L: When we cannot discern because we insist on our own categories instead of yours—
Forgive us.**

L: When we won't allow those outside our approved systems to speak your word, Forgive us.

**L: When our attention is captured or consumed by the wrong thing,
so we miss out on what you are doing—Forgive us, merciful God.**

All: Take us outside our comfortable places and set us free

So that we might once again meet you on your Way. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

**L: Hear this good news: the Word made flesh is here to set us free for abundant life,
here and now. Forgiven by God, you are invited to live in the way of Jesus.**

All: Trusting in God's forgiveness, we go forward into new life. Thanks be to God!

Response in Song—110, v.3

"Love Has Come"

Love has come and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free

Love is Jesus within and among us; Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Time for All God's Children

Lindsey Kim

*Please note that any children who come forward to the chancel will likely be seen on the worship livestream.
Children ages preschool—third grade dismissed to Sunday Experience.

Prayer for Illumination

Psalm, and Preface to the Gospel Text Psalm 32:1-2, John 1:14-18

Gospel Text John 1: 19-34

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Rev. Janna VanderWoude

Following Stars—Watching, Asking Questions, and Sharing with Each Other

Prayers of the People

EUCCHARIST—OUR GRATITUDE AND TRUST IN GOD'S PROMISES

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Coventry Carol"

2010. Michele McLaughlin

We invite you to use the time of the Offertory to reflect and to pray silently, offering thanks for God's goodness, and commitment of ourselves for declaring that the God who creates also re-creates. making all things new.

****Doxology-151, v.5**

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

****Prayer of Dedication and Discipleship**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them up to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...The prayer continues, concluding with the Lord's Prayer (Hymnal, p.35)
Our Father, who art in heaven....

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Song during Communion - # 519 "You Are My Strength When I Am Weak")

You are invited to come forward to the table today to receive communion.

Please form a group line down the center aisle and return to your seat using the side aisles.

If you would like to have bread and cup brought to you, please raise your hand slightly.

At the table to the left you may take a piece of bread and a single-serve cup.

Communion to the right is "by intinction", dipping the bread into a shared cup.

All of the bread is gluten-free.

The cups in the outer rings of the trays contain wine. The rest of the cups contain grape juice.

When you receive the bread and cup, it is appropriate to respond to the words offered by saying "Amen."

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

****Sending Song- #666**

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

Blessing and Charge

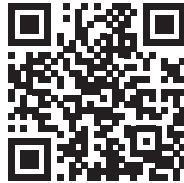
Postlude

"Rise and Shepherd and Follow"

2007. Mark Hayes.

Art Attribution

John 1, by Debby Topliff, 2015. Look her up and read her story here:



Liturgy Attribution

Liturgy Adapted from Bibleworm Narrative Lectionary resources,
Rev. Teri Peterson, Scotland

There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!

Thank you to Neil Danzig for providing audio support this week!
Thank you to for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Texts for the Week

John 1:19-34

¹⁹ This is John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?"

²⁰ John confessed (he didn't deny but confessed), "I'm not the Christ."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

John said, "I'm not."

"Are you the prophet?"

John answered, "No."

²² They asked, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied,

"I am a voice crying out in the wilderness, Make the Lord's path straight, just as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴ Those sent by the Pharisees ²⁵ asked, "Why do you baptize if you aren't the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

²⁶ John answered, "I baptize with water. Someone greater stands among you, whom you don't recognize. ²⁷ He comes after me, but I'm not worthy to untie his sandal straps." ²⁸ This encounter took place across the Jordan in Bethany where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.' ³¹ Even I didn't recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel." ³² John testified, "I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. ³³ Even I didn't recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son."

Psalm 32:1-2

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,

whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

John 1:14-18

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;

¹⁷ as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Third Grade Bibles

We will recognize our third graders' transition into full worship at Christ Memorial by presenting them with their very own, brand new Bible during worship on Sunday January 11th. If you have a third grader, please notify the church office at office@cmpcusa.org.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026 immediately following worship. The meeting is to approve the budget and the pastor's Terms of Call. All members are encouraged to attend.

Angel Tree Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to our Angel Tree collection for the Grassroots and the Cold Weather Shelter. You helped to make a lot of people happy and warm this winter! It was a HUGE success with the following delivered to Grassroots were:

- 89 pairs of socks (52 adult, 37 kids)
- 71 pairs of gloves/mittens (34 adult, 37 kids)
- 24 scarves
- 74 hats
- 5 sets of handmade Ear warmers/cowls
- 3 kids coats
- 2 pairs of slippers
- \$75 in grocery gift cards



673

Jesus, Light of Joy

1 Je - sus, light of joy, sur - round us; let your splen - did
 2 Now the shad - ows fall a - round us; now the eve - ning
 3 With the saints we lift our voic - es, God of pow - er,

glo - ry shine: source of ev - ery earth - ly bles - sing,
 has be - gun: still your gra - cious light is with us,
 God of might. All cre - a - tion shines with glo - ry,

heav - en's ev - er - last - ing sign. Al - le - lu - ia,
 bright - er than the morn - ing sun. Al - le - lu - ia,
 sing - ing prais - es day and night: al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, we a - dore you, light di - vine.
 al - le - lu - ia, God of glo - ry, Three - in - One.
 al - le - lu - ia, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly light.

The images of light in this text are drawn from the ancient Christian vesper hymn *Phos hilaron*, which dates from at least the 3rd century. (For other versions, see nos. 671 and 672.) That rather brief original hymn is augmented here in the third stanza by language based on the *Sanctus*.

There Is a Redeemer

443



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son;
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,
 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
 pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope for sin - ners slain.
 there I'll serve my King for - ev - er in that ho - ly place.



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us your Son, and



leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Although the refrain of this piece names all three Persons of the Trinity, the stanzas emphasize references to Jesus Christ under various titles. There is also a shift in tone between the stanzas and the refrain: the former speak about God and the latter speaks to God.

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak 519

You Are My All in All

Capo 5: (C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (C)
F C Dm7 Am F

**F*

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the trea-sure that I

(Dm7) (C) (G7) (C) (G7) (C) (G)
Gm7 F C7 F C7 F C

seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me

(Am7) (Em) (C) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)
Dm7 Am F Gm7 F C7 B^b F

up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G) (C) (G7)
F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C F C7

**F*

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

(C) (G) (Am7) (Em) (Dm7) (C) (G7) (F) (C)
F C Dm7 Am Gm7 F C7 B^b F

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

**May be sung as a canon.*

The expression "all in all," meaning "everything," owes much of its endurance in English usage to its appearance in 1 Corinthians 15:28, though many phrases leading up to it here have parallels in Hebrew Scripture. The second section echoes the song to the Lamb in Revelation 5:12.


O Splendor of God's Glory Bright 666



1 O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e -
 2 Come, Ho - ly Sun of heaven - ly love, rain down your
 3 O joy - ful be the pass - ing day with thoughts as
 4 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing morn, your im - age



ter - nal bring - ing light; O Light of Light, light's
 ra - diance from a - bove, and to our in - ward
 clear as morn - ing's ray, with faith like noon - tide
 to our heart is born; O may we ev - er



liv - ing spring, true Day, all days il - lu - min - ing:
 hearts con - vey the Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less ray.
 shin - ing bright, our souls un - shad - owed by the night.
 clear - ly view our Sav - ior and our God in you.

This morning hymn is based on a Latin text attributed to a 4th-century bishop. It weaves various images of Christ as Light with light-based descriptions of each day's passing. It is set to a dance-like tune from at least the 15th century that enhances the energy in the text.