

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

**January 18, 2026**

**One Bread, One Body, One Spirit**

**9:30 A.M in the Church**

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker  
Rector

# Welcome to our Church

## WELCOME to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

**Services are available:** Recent services are available on our website: <https://stpaulwilkesboro.org>

**Newsletters:** Sign-up today to receive our weekly electronic newsletter! Email the church office at [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org) to have your name added. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter mailed, please call the office.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

200 W. Cowles St., P. O. Box 95, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

336-667-4231

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

E-mail: [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org)

**Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800**

### ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:



# The Gathering

## Prelude

### Prelude in E Minor

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

## Welcome and Announcements

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN #7 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!

Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:  
joy - less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,  
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Ratisbon*, melody from *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, 1524; adapt. att. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870); harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

## Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

## Gloria S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the  
glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

## The Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and followed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

**Isaiah 49:1-7**

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, “You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

But I said, “I have labored in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,  
and my reward with my God.”

And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength--

he says,  
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,

“Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## The Response

## Psalm 40:1-12

*Expectans, expectavi*

I waited patiently upon the LORD; \*

**God stooped to me and heard my cry.**

God lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; \*

**God set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.**

There is a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God; \*  
**many shall see, and stand in awe,**  
**and put their trust in the LORD.**

Happy are they who trust in the LORD! \*  
**they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.**

Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!  
how great your wonders and your plans for us! \*  
**there is none who can be compared with you.**

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! \*  
**but they are more than I can count.**

In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure \*  
**(you have given me ears to hear you);**

Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, \*  
**and so I said, "Behold, I come.**

In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: \*  
**'I love to do your will, O my God;**  
**your law is deep in my heart.'"**

I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; \*

**behold, I did not restrain my lips;**

**and that, O LORD, you know.**

Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; \*

**I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.**

You are the LORD;

do not withhold your compassion from me; \*

**let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.**

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthnes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

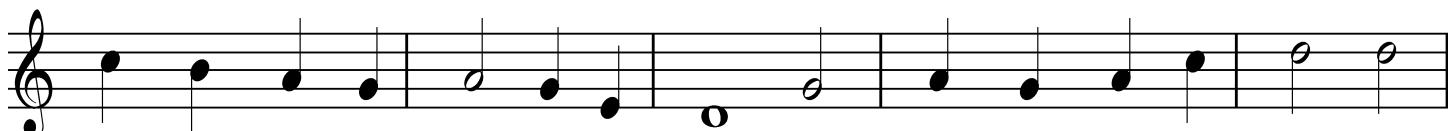
*Please stand as you are most comfortable.*

## Sequence Hymn #439 What Wondrous Love is This

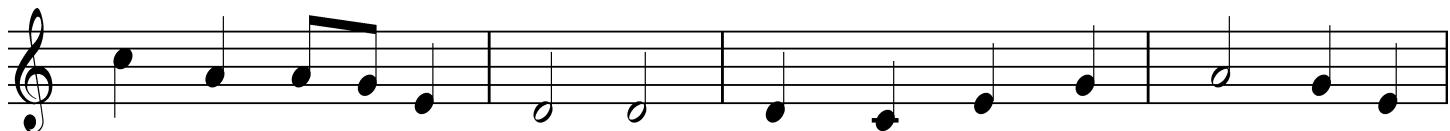
*Unison*



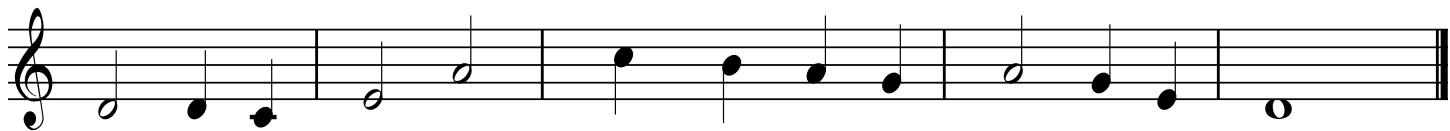
1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to  
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that  
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll

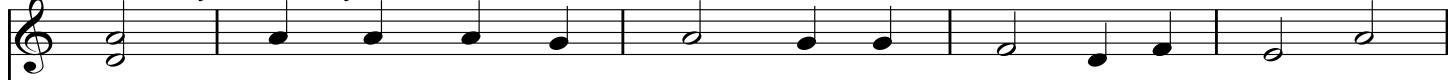


caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my  
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



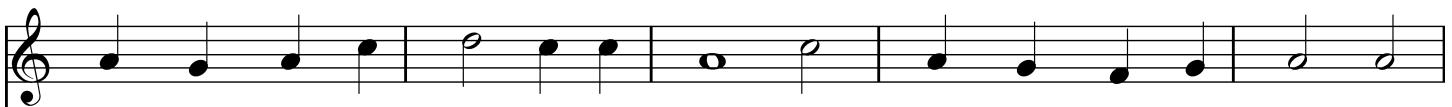
soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

*Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)*

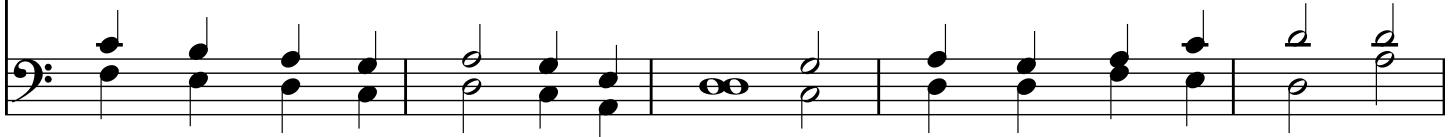


1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to  
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

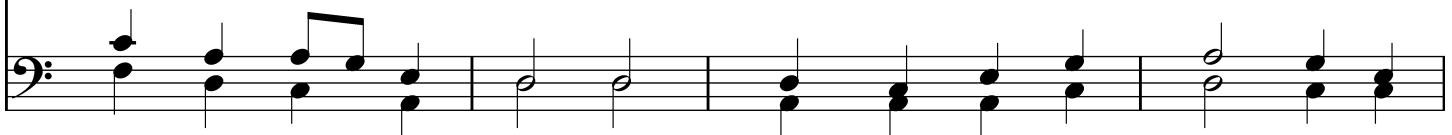




won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that  
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my  
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soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.



Words: American folk hymn, ca. 1835. Music: *Wondrous Love*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; alt. acc. Carlton R. Young, (b. 1926).

## **The Gospel**

**John 1:29-42**

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*All are seated*

## **The Sermon**

*The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker*

*A time of silence following the sermon.*

## The Decalogue

Presider: Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Love the lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: love your neighbor as yourself.”

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

***May it be so.***

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

***May it be so.***

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

***May it be so.***

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

***May it be so.***

Honor your father and your mother.

***May it be so.***

You shall not commit murder.

***May it be so.***

You shall not commit adultery.

***May it be so.***

You shall not steal.

***May it be so.***

You shall not be a false witness.

***May it be so.***

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

***May it be so.***

Presider: Let the love to which God calls us dwell within us and may that same love guide us into hope, joy and peace. **Amen.**

*Please stand or kneel as desired.*

## **Prayers of the People**

Let us pray to God, whose love and will are visible in Jesus Christ.

As the prophet Isaiah rang out, “Arise, shine; for your light has come”; empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

*Silence*

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

*Silence*

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.

*Silence*

Like the Magi who traveled from afar  
to bring gifts and celebrate this holy child;  
we pray for this community,  
and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries;  
especially those you would name silently or aloud...

*Silence*

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop,  
and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world;  
we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the marginalized.

*Silence*

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him;  
we pray for those we love and who have answered your call  
to follow Jesus into all the places to which he led us...

*Silence*

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the World, grant us courage to be reflections of your Love, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all hostilities, especially those perpetrated in your name would end. **Amen.**

*Remain standing or kneeling as desired.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*Please stand or kneel as you are most comfortable*

*New Zealand Prayer Book*

God has promised forgiveness  
as a gift of freedom and grace.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Moment of silence observed.*

God of all mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.**  
**We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**  
**We repent of the evil that enslaves us  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.**  
**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

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

## The Peace

❖ “**The Peace**” is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, “Peace be with you.” “The Peace” may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. These actions in God’s house model what we are called to do in the world.

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Presider: Invitation to the Great Thanksgiving**

## Offertory

### Offertory Anthem

**Lift Every Voice and Sing**  
(for text, see Hymn #599)

*J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP page 367*

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord

**People And of thine own have we given thee.**

Presider The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

Presider *continues.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from his mother Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all peoples to your grace and love, and bring us to that heavenly country where with our Patron, Paul, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our father in heaven  
hallowed be your Name,  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in Heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil,  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. AMEN.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

### Fraction

(S-154)

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written in a simple, rhythmic style with quarter notes and eighth notes. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." (repeated three times), "Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.", and "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." (repeated three times). The music is divided into three sections by vertical bar lines.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

## The Invitation to Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God...  
**God's holy gifts for God's holy people.**

*This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, for it is the Lord who invites you.*

You will now have three ways to receive communion:

**In one kind**--this means you receive only the bread or only the wine. Receive the bread by extending your hands, palm upward, when the presider comes to you and then leaving the rail or crossing your hands over your chest when the chalice comes to you.

To receive the wine only, cross your hands when the bread is presented and then drink from the chalice by gently assisting the chalice bearer by grasping the base of the chalice lightly to help guide it to your lips.

**Intinction (having the bread dipped in the wine and placed in your hand) is only done by the presider from the intinction tray. To receive communion by intinction simply keep your hands down by your sides as we have been doing. Then raise them to take intincted bread between thumb and forefinger.**

**In two kinds**--this is where you consume both the bread and the wine either by receiving the bread and then drinking from the chalice or by Intinction.

There is no intinction by multiple individuals from the chalice.

Gluten free wafers available upon request.

## Communion Music

**MLK**

*Steve Reid, tenor*

*U2*

*Please stand or kneel as desired.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Presider Let us pray,

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

May you, in God's holy mercy, increase in love for one another;  
May you follow Christ Jesus and learn how to live in God's ways;  
and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness, as you move out into this beautiful and fractured world. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Please stand as comfortable.*

## Recessional Hymn #550 Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

*Unison or harmony*

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult  
2 as, of old, Saint An - drew heard it  
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship  
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows,  
5 Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies,

1 of our life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his  
2 by the Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and  
3 of the vain world's gold - en store; from each i - dol  
4 days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in  
5 Sa - vior, make us hear thy call, give our hearts to

1 clear voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me;"  
2 toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.  
3 that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
4 cares and plea - sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."  
5 thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Music: *Restoration*, melody from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. *Hymnal 1982*, after *The Southern Harmony*, 1985; alt. harm. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922).

## The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Postlude**

**How Brightly Shines the Morning Star**

*J.S. Bach*

*\*\*Please note that neither Mother Stephanie nor St. Paul's will ever send out an e-mail or text communication requesting money, gift cards, etc. If you receive any suspicious communications like this, please ignore and delete these communications. Contact the Parish Office at any time with questions or concerns regarding possible scams.\*\**

## PRAYER LIST

***Please remember in your prayers:*** All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

### **Short-term**

Shannon Ryan, The Albanil Family, Jamie Tate, Rose Andrews

### **Long-term**

Cade Gibbs, Ray Call, Steve Jackson, Ken Asel, Shane Jenkins, Kaye Hall, Dot Beamon, Da'Shon Horton

### **Armed Forces**

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially John Craine, Micha Duerk, Faith Lankford, Cole Griffith, Zach Necessary, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve throughout the world.

**Prayer requests can be submitted through the prayer request form by scanning the QR code below, or by contacting the office.**





January 18th—Ann Davis

January 22nd—Ruth Harris

January 24th—Jeanne Loflin

January 24th—Laura Gentry

January 24th—Andrew Scroggs

January 25th—Michael & Elizabeth Graf

January 25th—Patrick Zander and Teri Canter

**Serving Today**

**Altar Guild: Pam Mayberry, Drew Mayberry**

**Reader: Nancy Scroggs**

**Acolytes: Drew Mayberry, Robin Shumate**

**Usher: Bob Houghton**

**Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley**

**Vestry Lock-Up for January: Tana Myers**



**The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina***

**St. Paul's Vestry 2025**

**Jeff Beard**

**Chuck Forester, Jr. Warden**

**Ruth Harris**

**Julie Koch**

**Scott Jessee, Sr. Warden**

**Tana Myers**

**Diane Peabody**

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**Bill Harris, Secretary**

**Drew Mayberry, Treasurer**

**The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, Rector**

***rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org***

**Russell Stinson, Director of Music**

**Penny Farmer, Finance Administrator**

**Robyn Setzer, Parish Administrator**