

December 6, 2025 (Maranatha!)

# Dear Friend in Christ,



May the abundant grace, mercy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon you in this blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Advent reminds me that the God who once came in great humility continues to come to us—in our longing, our weariness, and our waiting. Through worship, Christ tenderly shapes our hearts and quietly sends us into the world as bearers of His light.

In that same spirit of hopeful expectation, I want to share a brief update on the ministry opportunities the Lord opened before us this past year. I also want to extend a simple and heartfelt invitation: to consider how God might be calling you to walk with us in the New Year.

This is not a request made out of obligation, but an opportunity to participate in the work God is already doing—an invitation to join your life with ours in ways that bring encouragement, hope, and the light of Christ to others.

As you read this letter, it is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will guide your heart and make known the part He may be inviting you to play in the mission before us.

# The Word Became Flesh-and Dwells Among Us Still

At the heart of Advent is the stunning truth of John 1:14: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The God who spoke creation into being entered our humanity, taking on our burdens and sufferings that He might redeem us and make us His own.

This is not only doctrine—it is the living foundation of Christian worship, mission, and discipleship. Whenever the Church gathers around the Table, sings the Psalms, proclaims the Scriptures, or sorves the least of these the presence of Emmanuel. God with us



serves the least of these, the presence of Emmanuel—God with us—continues to dwell with His people.

Through worship, Christ forms us into His likeness and sends us into the world as bearers of His light. This is why the way we worship the one, holy, triune God matters; and why we would be honored to have you as a ministry partner, helping to renew and deepen worship across the Body of Christ, inspiring believers, and strengthening the Church's mission.

#### A Kairos Moment for Christ's Church

As this Advent and Christmas season unfolds, we are living in a kairos moment—a decisive time when God is calling His people to slow down, listen, repent, and realign their lives with His eternal mission. This includes

putting away divisions and restoring the oneness Jesus prayed for in John 17: "that they may all be one... so that the world may believe."

In the first millennium of Christianity, the Church understood itself as one, holy, catholic (universal), and apostolic Body, united by common Creeds, sacramental life, and shared worship shaped by the early ecumenical councils.

This unity was deeply wounded in 1054 when the bishops of East and West separated over significant doctrinal and ecclesial matters, fracturing the visible expression of apostolic communion. The Protestant Reformation—while bringing much-needed reforms and recovering vital biblical truths—further intensified this fragmentation, giving rise to thousands of denominations, sects, and movements. In the process, many communities became disconnected from the historic liturgical life of the Church, weakening the formative patterns of worship that shape believers into the likeness of Christ.

Today, however, a new generation of believers is catching a fresh vision for recovering that earlier apostolic unity—not by abandoning biblical truth or diluting doctrine, but by returning to the Faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3) that shaped the early Church.

### One Church • One Worship • One Faith • One Mission

One of the prayers of our ministry over the years has been for the renewal of the oneness Jesus prayed for. As we help congregations rediscover Scripture-saturated, Spirit-empowered, sacramentally grounded worship, we see believers drawn back to the "ancient paths" of Christian worship that united Christians across cultures and centuries.

Rooted in the biblical vision of "one Body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:3–6), our ministries gently guide congregations toward worship liturgies that nurture a more profound unity. When believers embrace the historic Faith confessed by the one, holy, catholic (universal), and apostolic Church (as expressed through the Nicene Creed), they rediscover what it means to worship as one people—many members yet one Body (1 Corinthians 12).

Restoring the plumbline of oneness to the Body of Christ naturally extends into the oneness of the domestic Church—the family—where unity is first learned, practiced, and embodied. When families worship God together—whether around the Table, in daily prayer, or in the assembly of God's people on the Lord's Day—Christ becomes the center, love is rekindled, forgiveness flows, and the unity of the home becomes a living icon of the unity Christ desires for His whole Body.

## A Rising Generation Returning to the Ancient Paths

This year, we have witnessed an extraordinary trend—one that research now confirms and our own ministry experiences have repeatedly shown. Younger Christians are not running from ancient Christianity; they are running toward it. Across the United States and around the world, believers in their twenties, thirties, and forties are turning away from seeker-sensitive, consumer-driven models of church built on entertainment, novelty, innovation, and personality-centered leadership.

Instead, they discover the joy and strength of worship rooted in the reading and preaching of Holy Scripture, the singing of the Psalms, the ancient Creeds, the Sacraments, and the daily rhythms of prayer. They are awakening to reverence, holiness, beauty, and the divine liturgies shaped by sacred Scripture—treasures that have formed Christians for two millennia.

We are encouraged by this worship renewal and invite you to join us in praying for a New Reformation of Worship—one that restores unity to the Body of Christ so that the Great Commission may be fulfilled. As Handel's

Messiah proclaims from Psalm 24, "Lift up your heads, O you gates... that the King of Glory may come in!" May renewed worship open the way for the King of Glory to be known among the nations.



## **Extending a Ministry Arm to Equip Church Planters**

In recent years, the Lord has opened doors for us to equip church planters and congregations in restoring the ancient paths of Christian worship. One of our most effective tools has been the Book of Common Prayer—a resource composed of 80% Scripture and 20% apostolic liturgy. It has helped countless believers encounter the beauty, order, and depth of ancient Christian worship.

This year, we launched *Anglican Worship Equippers*, a ministry arm of *Worship Equippers for Christ*, dedicated to serving Anglican church planters who carry a multiplying vision: *to plant churches that plant churches*, rooted in Scripture, the Spirit, and the Sacraments. Their vision reflects the worship of the early Church and offers a faithful alternative to the fragmented approaches common today.

This work is urgently needed. The United States is now one of the largest mission fields in the world, with 156 million Americans unaffiliated with any Christian church. In such a moment, equipping leaders to plant biblically faithful, Spirit-empowered, sacramentally grounded congregations is essential to fulfilling Christ's mission.

## **Ministry Highlights of 2025**

This past year, we were able to minister to Christians and spiritual seekers facing anxiety, depression, addiction, financial strain, and deep relational struggles in marriage and family life. Others were wrestling with gender identity issues, loneliness, grief, and spiritual confusion in a culture increasingly disconnected from Scripture and Christian community.

We led retreats, Bible studies, and mentoring sessions for lay leaders, musicians, and sacred artists. We hosted a ministry exhibit at the New Wineskins Global Mission Conference, engaging with more than 1,600 clergy, missionaries, church planters, and other church leaders.

This fall, I was privileged to go on a missionary journey to Cairo, Egypt, to minister and explore a partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Egypt, which is transforming lives through evangelism, discipleship, medical care, refugee ministries, education, deaf ministries, and compassionate outreach in a predominantly Muslim culture.

We also had the joy of donating musical instruments to our mission partners at The Shade School in Tanzania — an extraordinary school serving vulnerable children with albinism who face ritualistic violence fueled by witchcraft-related beliefs. Their courage and faith remind us that worship can be both a refuge and a witness to the beauty of Christ.

## **Prayer Requests for 2026**

As we prepare for the coming year, please pray for:

- our 8th Holy Land pilgrimage (February 16–26)
- discernment regarding a return to Egypt to minister at a worship conference.
- God's leading in developing new curricula on discovering and releasing spiritual gifts.
- wisdom in scheduling retreats, seminars, and conferences for 2026–2027
- God's provision of new ministry partners to help provide needed funding, including multimedia equipment for online teaching and video presentations.

#### We Invite You to Partner with Us

As you consider your year-end giving and plans for 2026, we invite you to prayerfully discern whether the Lord might be calling you to partner with us through a special year-end gift and/or a monthly pledge which provides ongoing support for our work.

If you would like to partner with us in either or both ways, you can donate online at **WorshipEquippers.org/Donate** or send your contribution by mail using our gift form:

## **Worship Equippers for Christ**

21000 Southbank St., #106 Potomac Falls, VA 20165

Glorianne and I thank God for your friendship in Christ and for the ways your prayers, encouragement, and presence have strengthened us over the years.

May the eternal Word who became flesh dwell richly in your heart and home this Christmas, filling your life with His grace, guiding you with His light, and leading you ever more deeply into His love as we enter the coming year.

Trusting our Good Shepherd to lead us forward,

Dean+

The Rev. Dean F. Schultz Founder / Executive Director



