



**KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081**

January 18, 2026

11:00 am

Second Sunday after Epiphany

† Please stand as you are able.
Congregation responses in **Bold**.

PRELUDE

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

arr. Dale Wood

WELCOME

†CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, **†** one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C Amen.

P Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Mighty God, lover of justice,

C you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in **†** Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O, Sing a Song of Bethlehem

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GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

† GATHERING HYMN

O, Sing a Song of Bethlehem

KINGSFOLD

† KYRIE *ELW S184*

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.
 Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

† PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

LET'S TALK

Children's Time

READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

L A reading from the first chapter of 1st Corinthians.

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
2 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: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God
that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in
speech and knowledge of every kind 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord
Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the
day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership
of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

† GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW S188*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL John 1:29-42

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.³³ 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.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ 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?”³⁹ 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.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴² 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).

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

SERMON HYMN ELW 661

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry
 to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A Please kneel or be seated for the Prayers of God's People.

*Prayer petitions will conclude: "Merciful God,"
The congregation's response is: "receive our prayer."*

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.

† SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

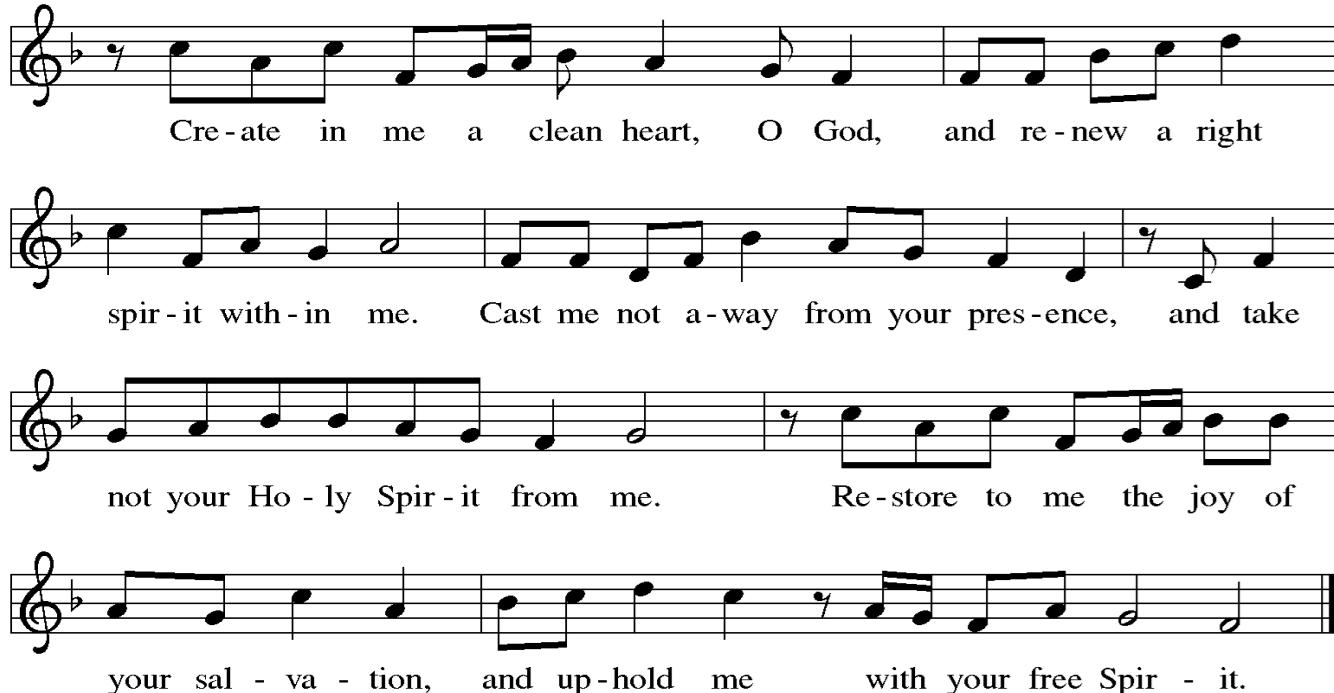
A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

OFFERING

The offering plates are in the narthex for your use. You may also place your offering in the plate at the communion rail when you come forward for communion. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.

† OFFERING PRESENTATION *ELW 186*

Create in Me a Clean Heart



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Gluton-free is available on request. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

C 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.

INVITATION

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

Receive the Elements as the words are said:
The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y,a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

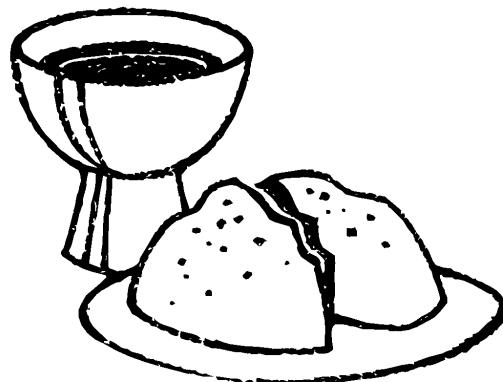
shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - y,a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

† POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C Amen.



† POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
† bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on "Hankey"

arr. James J. Stanley

† SENDING HYMN **ELW 547***Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

THE ASH GROVE

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
 the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

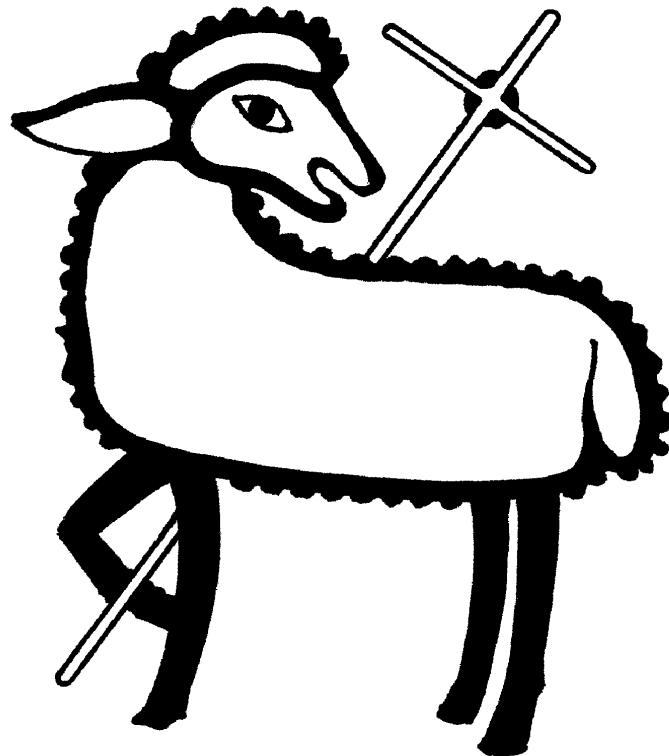
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday, January 18, 2026—Confession of Peter

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Monday, January 19, 2026—Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026—Agnes, martyr, died around 304

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

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