

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!

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate His first coming and look with hope toward His coming again in glory, Glorianne and I want to express how deeply grateful we are for you. Your prayers and financial support make our ministry for Christ possible, for which we offer you our heartfelt thanks.

# 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 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 your partnership with Worship Equippers matters, as we co-labor to help 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, as defined by the early ecumenical councils. That unity was deeply wounded in 1054 by the ecclesial division between the eastern and western bishops which compromised apostolic unity and was further fractured during the Protestant Reformation, which—though it brought needed reforms—resulted in the birthing of thousands of denominations, sects, and movements, many of which compromised liturgical integrity in worship.

Today, a new generation of believers are catching a fresh vision for the recovery of 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 that our Lord Jesus Christ 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 seek to gently guide congregations toward the ancient paths of worship liturgies that nurture more profound unity. When believers embrace the historic Faith confessed by the one, holy, catholic (universal), and apostolic Church (e.g., see the Nicene Creed) over the centuries, 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 stretches into the oneness of the domestic Church—the family—where unity is first learned, practiced, and embodied. Just as the Church is called to be "one Body in Christ," so the Christian household is called to live together in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

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 unity modeled for us by the Holy Trinity.

#### A Rising Generation Returning to the Ancient Paths

This year, we have witnessed an encouraging trend in answer to our prayers. Research confirms what we are seeing with our own eyes: 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 that rely on entertainment, novelty, innovation, and personality-centered leadership.

Instead, they discover the joy and strength of worship rooted in the reading and preaching of the Holy Scriptures, the praise of the Psalms (the Hymnbook of the Church), the ancient Creeds, Sacraments, and the daily rhythms of prayer. They are awakening to a renewed love for reverence, holiness, beauty, and the divine liturgies shaped by sacred Scripture—treasures that have formed Christians for two thousand years.

We are encouraged by this revival of worship renewal and invite you to join us in praying that our generation may experience a New Reformation of Worship—one that restores the plumbline of oneness to the Body of Christ so that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ may be fulfilled. As Handel's *Messiah* so beautifully proclaims in the words of Psalm 24: "Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors, that the King of Glory may come in!"

May the renewed worship of God's people once again open the way for the King of Glory to be known among the nations!

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

Over the past few years, our vision has expanded as the Lord has opened new doors for us to equip church planters and congregations in restoring the ancient paths of Christian worship. One of the most effective tools for this work has been the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) —a theologically rich, pastorally wise, and

mission-shaped resource composed of 80% Scripture and 20% apostolic liturgies handed down through the centuries.

Few people realize that the BCP has been used across denominations to reintroduce churches to the worship patterns of the early Christians—rooted in Scripture, saturated with prayer, and centered on Word and Sacrament. For this reason, our ministry has relied on the BCP for worship and teaching at our retreats, seminars, pilgrimages, and worship celebrations. Its rhythms have helped countless believers encounter the beauty, order, and depth of ancient Christian worship.



This year, in response to the growing need, we launched *Anglican Worship Equippers*, a ministry arm of *Worship Equippers for Christ*, to serve Anglican church planters who carry a bold, multiplying vision—to plant churches that plant churches—rooted in the ancient paths of Christian worship. Their commitment to blending Scripture, Spirit, and Sacrament reflects the worship of the early Church and offers a faithful, life-giving alternative to the fragmented models so common today.

This work is urgently needed. The United States has become 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 worshiping communities is not optional—it is essential for helping to fulfill the mission of Christ in our generation.

## **Ministry Highlights of 2025**

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

We also led retreats, Bible studies, mentored lay leaders, musicians, and sacred artists, and hosted a ministry exhibit at the New Wineskins Global Mission Conference, engaging with more than 1,600 clergy, missionaries, and church planters from around the world.

This fall I was invited to go on a mission trip to Cairo Egypt to explore a ministry partnership and to minister alongside clergy and lay leaders of the *Anglican Diocese of Egypt* (dioceseofegypt.org), which is impacting countless 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* (Shadetz.org) in Tanzania, Africa —an extraordinary place where vulnerable children with albinism receive food, education, and protection from the ritualistic violence associated with local witchcraft beliefs, reminding 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) to be spiritually transformative for every pilgrim.
- Discernment to determine the timing of a return trip to Egypt to minister at a worship conference.
- · Gods leading in writing equipping curricula on how Christians discover and release spiritual gifts
- Wisdom in scheduling retreats, seminars, and conferences for 2026-2027

• God's provision as we seek new ministry partners to provide needed funding for our ministry in 2026, which includes the purchase of multimedia equipment for online teaching, podcasts, and video presentations

#### **Thank You for Your Partnership**

Because you already support our ministry, please receive our heartfelt thanks. Your generosity is a true gift to us, and the fruit of your faithfulness is being multiplied in the lives of countless believers. We could not do this work without you.

As we prepare for the coming ministry year, we would be deeply grateful if you would consider helping to provide for our ongoing needs through a monthly gift. This kind of regular support can be set up through our website and is one of the most effective and sustaining ways to support our ministry throughout the year.

If you are willing to help us in this way and/or invest a yearend gift you may do so at **WorshipEquippers.org/Donate**, or mail your check with our gift form to:

Worship Equippers for Christ 21000 Southbank St., #106 Potomac Falls, VA 20165

Glorianne and I thank God for you and for your faithful partnership in Christ's mission. May the Word who became flesh dwell richly in your heart and home this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Your partner in Christ's work,

Dean+

The Rev. Dean F. Schultz Founder / Executive Director



