

December 5, 2025 (Maranatha)

Dear Friends in Christ,



May the grace, mercy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be multiplied to you in this holy Advent and Christmas season. As we prepare our hearts to celebrate His first coming in Bethlehem and make ourselves ready for His coming again in glory, Glorianne and I are profoundly grateful for your friendship, prayers, and encouragement in our lives and ministry. Advent reminds us that the God who once drew near in humility continues to draw near to His people in their longing, their weariness, and their waiting.

It is in this spirit of hope-filled expectation that we write to you—to share an update on our ministry activities over the past year, to invite your prayers for the opportunities before us, and to ask you to prayerfully consider helping provide the funding needed for our ministry in the coming year. We remain deeply grateful for every person who stands with us in this work.

The Word Became Flesh—and Dwells Among Us Still

At the heart of Advent is the glorious proclamation of John 1:14: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. "The God who spoke the universe into existence entered our world in human form, taking on our nature, our struggles, and our suffering to redeem us with His own precious blood and make us His own.



This mystery is not merely doctrine; it is the foundation of Christian worship, mission, and discipleship. When the Church gathers at the Lord's Table, lifts its voice in prayer, proclaims the Scriptures, and extends grace to the world, the presence of the Incarnate Christ dwells among His people again. Through worship, Emmanuel—God with us—forms us into His likeness and enables us to bear His light to the nations.

This is why worship matters—and why Worship Equippers exists.

A Kairos Moment for Christ's Church

As this Advent season unfolds, I sense 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. Advent reminds us that Christ comes to a people in need of awakening; He comes to restore His Bride, "who is making herself ready" (Rev. 19:7b), and to call her back to Himself.

For generations, Christians have longed for 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 a common Creed, sacramental life, and shared worship, as defined by the early ecumenical councils. That unity was wounded in 1054 by the division between East and West and further fractured during the Protestant Reformation, which—though it brought needed reforms —resulted in thousands of denominations, sects, and movements.

Today, many believers are catching a 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 shared foundations of the faith "once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3) 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 the ancient paths of worship liturgies that nurture deeper unity. When believers embrace the historic Faith confessed by the one, holy, catholic (universal), and apostolic Church (e.g., see the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds) 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. The lack of shared prayer, worship, and mutual commitment to the Lord often leads to divisions within marriages and families. When families worship God together—whether around the Table, in daily prayer, or in the assembly of God's people—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 especially noted a trend that answers our prayers. Research confirms that younger Christians are not running from ancient Christianity—they are running toward it! In the United States and internationally, a growing number of younger Christians—primarily in their twenties, thirties, and forties—are moving away from churches with a seeker-sensitive consumer orientation, an entertainment focus, and personality-driven leadership. Instead, they are discovering the joy of worshiping with the Psalms, the ancient Creeds, the sacraments, and the daily rhythms of prayer, with a new appreciation for reverence, holiness, beauty, and divine liturgies grounded in the truth of sacred Scripture.

Extending a Ministry Arm to Equip Church Planters



Over the past few years, we have had the privilege of helping equip Anglican church-planting teams whose worship is shaped by the *Book of Common Prayer*—a theologically rich, pastorally wise, and mission-shaped resource composed of 80% Scripture and 20% liturgies handed down through the centuries. Few people know that the *Book of Common Prayer* has been embraced by various denominations over the years, connecting evangelical, charismatic, and sacramental churches with the ancient liturgies of the early Church.

Our heart is to equip church planters from these various streams with this treasure so they can introduce their congregations to the ancient paths of Christian worship. In a time when revisionist doctrines and cultural pressures led some churches to depart from the teachings of sacred Scripture, recovering these historic forms of worship helps congregations remain rooted in *the faith once delivered to the saints* (Jude 3). For many years, our ministry has used this priceless resource to shape the worship life of our retreats, seminars, pilgrimages, and worship celebrations.

This year, we launched <u>Anglican Worship Equippers</u> (view our introductory video here), a ministry arm of <u>Worship Equippers for Christ</u>, to help equip these teams. We think this calling is essential right now, especially since the country has become one of the world's biggest mission fields, with around 156 million Americans not affiliated with a Christian church.

Ministry Highlights of 2025

- Led retreats, weekly worship services, and Bible studies, and mentored clergy, lay leaders, musicians, and church planters in several regions.
- Hosted a ministry exhibit at the New Wineskins Global Mission Conference, engaging with more than 1,600 leaders from around the world—clergy, lay leaders, sacred artists, missionaries, and church planters.
- We served on a mission trip to the <u>Anglican Diocese of Egypt</u>, ministering among Sudanese refugees, hospital patients, a deaf school (in a nation where nearly eight million are deaf due to intermarriage), and Christian schools in the poorest neighborhoods, where many families survive by recycling garbage. Christianity in Egypt traces its roots to the first century through St. Mark's preaching, making it one of the world's oldest Christian communities. For nearly 2,000 years, Egyptian believers have borne a resilient witness to Christ in a predominantly Muslim culture, where about 90% of the population follows Islam.
- Donated musical instruments to <u>The Shade School</u> in Tanzania, Africa, where vulnerable children with albinism are fed, educated, and protected from ritualistic violence rooted in witchcraft practices.

Prayer Requests for 2026

As we prepare for the coming year, we ask for your faithful prayers for:

• Our 8th Holy Land pilgrimage (February 16–26) would be spiritually transformative for every pilgrim.

- Discernment regarding a return trip to Egypt to minister at a worship conference.
- The development of new equipping curricula to help believers discern, develop, and exercise their spiritual gifts.
- Wisdom in scheduling retreats, seminars, and conferences (please contact our office if you would like to explore what is involved in having us lead a retreat for your church or ministry).
- God's provision as we seek to enlist new ministry partners to help provide the funding needed for our ministry in 2026.

An Invitation to Share in This Ministry

Like most ministries, we rely on the Lord's provision through yearend gifts and monthly pledges that sustain our work. Your financial support—whether a **special year-end gift** and/or a **recurring monthly pledge**—would be a significant help to us as we seek to develop our funding for the New Year.

If the Lord leads you to partner with us, you can make a year-end gift or set up a recurring monthly pledge online at:

WorshipEquippers.org/donation

To mail a check complete this gift form and mail to:

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

Glorianne and I are profoundly grateful for your partnership in our ministry as God leads. May the Word who became flesh dwell richly in your hearts and homes this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Before His face, and grateful for you in Christ,



The Rev. Dean F. Schultz Founder / Executive Director



