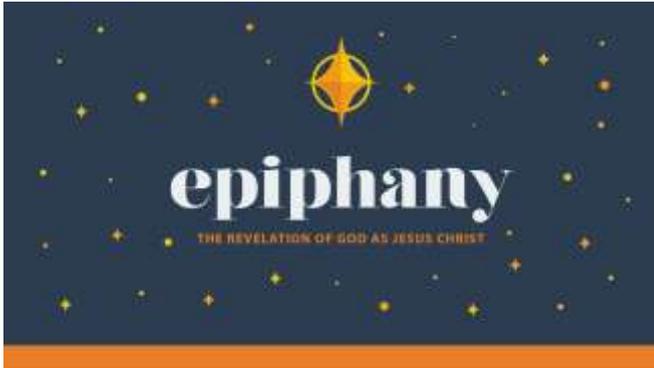


fourth Sunday

AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 1, 2026



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OF LANCASTER

Diocese of Fredericton

Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop

Priest-in-charge

Church Wardens

Parish Administrator

Organist & Choir Director

Sexton

Archbishop David Edwards

The Rev'd Christopher Ketch

Susan Jack, Terry Ricketts

Lori Maker

David Mitchell

Larry Totton

668 Manawagonish Rd.,

Saint John, NB E2M 3W5

telephone (506) 635-8145

e-mail goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca

web site www.goodshepherdsj.ca



We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (M'lisieet) and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

THE GATHERING OF THE CHURCH**Greeting**

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

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *“Let Us Light a Candle”*

1 In a world where people walk in darkness,
Let us turn our faces to the light,
To the light of God revealed in Jesus,
To the day-star scattering our night.

Chorus *For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will over-come the night,
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.*

2 In a world where suffering of the helpless
Casts a shadow all along the way,
Let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness
And proclaim the dawning of the day. *Chorus*

3 Let us light a candle in the darkness,
In the face of death a sign of life;
As a sign of hope where all seemed hopeless,
As a sign of peace in place of strife. *Chorus*

Invitation, Confession and Prayer of Forgiveness

Officiant Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

All **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Officiant Merciful God,
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Officiant We are the body of Christ; in the one Spirit we were
all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that
makes for peace and builds up our common life.

People The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

We greet one another in the peace of Christ.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

Living God,
in Christ you make all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Officiant Thank you, Father,
for making yourself known to us
and showing the way of salvation
through faith in your Son.
We ask you now to teach and encourage us
through your Word,
so that we may be ready to serve you;
for the glory of the One in whose name we pray,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

*(from A Prayer Book for Australia,
Anglican Church of Australia 1999)*

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading Micah 6:1-8

A reading from Micah.

¹Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,

and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

3 'O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.'

6 'With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'

8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 15*

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
 who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 **Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is
right, ***
 who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
 he does no evil to his friend; *
 he does not heap contempt upon his neighbour.
- 4 **In his sight the wicked is rejected, ***
 but he honours those who fear the Lord.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
 and does not take back his word.

- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’ [NRSV-A]

Hear God’s word for God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *“Blest Are the Pure in Heart”* CP 439

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from Matthew.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon Brenda Clayton
The Apostles' Creed

Officiant Let us confess our faith as we say,
All **I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord.
He was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Leader Let us join in prayer with God's faithful people throughout the world, saying "God of love: hear our prayer."

Lord God almighty, we pray for the unity of your church, that our life may reflect the love you have shown us.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We ask your grace for David our bishop, John our interim priest-in-charge, and for all who minister in word and in action, that we may bear faithful witness to your good news.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We seek your peace and justice in our world, our country and our community, that the needy may never be forgotten.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We ask your blessing on our homes, our friends and family, and on those who live alone, that we may know your presence ever near us.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We name before you all whom you have given us to pray for [*especially....*], knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can ask or imagine.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We commend to you all who have died [*especially....*] that our trust in you may deepen as you show us the depth of your mercy.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We offer our thanks and praise for all you have done for us, rejoicing in the knowledge that you are with us always.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader We look for your purposes to be accomplished, and ask you to fill us with the strength and vision to further your reign.

People **God of love: hear our prayer.**

Leader These and all our prayers we offer to you, heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn for the Offering *“The Heart of Worship”*

When the music fades,
All is stripped away
And I simply come;
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless your heart:

I bring you more than a song,
For a song in itself
Is not what you have required;
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear,
You're looking into my heart!

*Chorus: I'm coming back to the heart of worship,
And it's all about you,
It's all about you, Jesus!
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,
When it's all about you,
It's all about you, Jesus*

King of endless worth,
No one could express
How much you deserve;
Though i'm weak and poor,
All i have is yours;
Every single breath.
(Chorus)

*Matt Redman, Copyright 1997 ThankYou Music
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Officiant Let us pray.

All **Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is
yours.
All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

All **Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you
have done for us. We thank you for the splendour
of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world,
for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.
We thank you for the blessing of family and
friends, and for the loving care which surrounds
us on every side. We thank you for setting us tasks
which demand our best efforts, and for leading us
to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.
We thank you also for those disappointments and
failures that lead us to acknowledge our
dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you
for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word
and the example of his life; for his steadfast
obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for
his dying, through which he overcame death; for
his rising to life again, in which we are raised to
the life of your kingdom.
Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know
Christ and make him known. And through him, at
all times and in all places, may we give thanks to
you in all things. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All **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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the risen and ascended Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn “*Let There Be Peace On Earth*”

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

*Jill Jackson and Sy Miller © 1955. Renewed 1983 Jan - Lee Music
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Postlude

Those serving today's worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Susan Dole & Nancy Kerrigan
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Margaret Penchoff & Ann Stone
<i>Layreader & First Reader</i>	Brenda Clayton
<i>Second Reader</i>	Margaret Penchoff
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Guitarist</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Officiant & preacher</i>	Brenda Clayton
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Beverly Janes

Those serving in our outreach this week:

Sun, Feb 1, 11:45 am	Susan Jack
HVHS Lunch Programme preparation (Large Hall kitchen)	Susan Dole Nancy Kerrigan John Kerrigan
Mon, Feb 2, 11:30 am	Janet Brown
HVHS Lunch Programme delivery (from Large Hall)	David Brown

Who's serving next week is on the Narthex bulletin board.

THIS WEEK

- Mon, Feb 2, 6:00 pm** Tintinnabula Hand Bell Choir (Small Hall) For more info contact Lynn Adams at 506 635-8474
- Wed, Feb 4, 10:00 am** Saint John and District Senior's Shuffleboard (Large Hall) For more info contact Pauline Wilson at 506 738-8677
- Wed, Feb 4, 7:00 pm** Choir practice (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798

LOOKING AHEAD

- Fri, Feb 6, 6:00 pm** Youth Connection-Small Hall & Large Hall
- Sat, Feb 14, 9:00 am** Vestry (Small Hall) For more info contact Terry Ricketts at 506 672-4696 or Susan Jack at 506 333-9931
- Sun, Mar 8, noon** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING right after worship – a "*bagged lunch*"** will be provided for all who attend!

FOR OUR WORSHIP AND LEARNING

Next Sunday – February 8 *Fifth Sunday after The Epiphany*
Scripture readings Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

NOTICES

L.I.F.T. (*Ladies in Fellowship Together*) is once again having their **annual Bakeless Bake sale**. This year we will be using the funds to support the Harbourview High School Lunch Program.

Happy Birthday this Week to:

February 1– Larry Dunlop

February 2– Jamie Galbraith

February 4 – Rebecca Snow & Grenville Ingraham

February 5 – Gordon Spinney & Raymond Roy



PRAYER

Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes

Ginny Abbott, Diane Cormier, Frances Finley, Ann Hoben, Ruth Northeast, Elizabeth Parks, Elsie Rusling, Arlene Trask

Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home

Andrew Aalund, Diane Basque, Margaret Boyer, Edith Chilton, Shelly Clark Collins, Linda Cunningham, Jo-Ann Diamond, Bonnie Dean, Wendy DeWitt, Ernest Ellingwood, Barb Ellis, Debbie Green, Kaye Mallory, Pam Melanson, Michael Penchoff, Susan Penchoff, Carol Price, Margaret Ann Reid, Lois Shaw, Bob Sherwood, Mykayla Spinney, Norm Toole, Dennis Totton, Joe Totton, Robbie Wong.

Prayer Shawls - if you know someone in our parish who is in great need for prayer and would find comfort in a shawl made with love and care. Contact Ngaire Nelson at 506-672-8666 or the church office at 506-635-8145.

Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of *February 1-7*

Mon: Ronald and Jillian Kearney and Family

Tue: Audrey Keating

Wed: Fr. Chris Ketch, Laura & Family

Thur: John & Nancy Kerrigan, Elizabeth & Veronica

Fri: Our Church Volunteers

Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.

Saint John Mission to Seafarers Prayer Cycle

In February, we pray for marine safety, that the International Maritime Organizations and all the Marine Safety inspectors may be blessed in their efforts to ensure that ships are safe, and crews are well trained.