



THE PEOPLE
WHO WALKED
IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A
GREAT LIGHT.

ISAIAH 9:2

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# MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

January 25, 2026

United Women in Faith Sunday

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(* Indicates when people are invited to stand)

PRELUDE:

“Here I Am to Worship”

By Tim Hughes

WORDS OF WELCOME

***CALL TO PRAYER**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

Upon those who lived in a land of deep shadow, light has dawned.

Jesus calls to us by the lakeshore: "Follow me."

We drop our nets and our worries to follow the Lord.

The kingdom of heaven has come near!

Let us worship the One who is our Light and our Salvation!

OPENING PRAYER

Radiant God, your light breaks through the gloom of our world and calls us into a new day. We thank you for the invitation to be "fishers of people" and for the grace that meets us exactly where we are—at our work, in our homes, and in our doubts. As we worship today, knit our hearts together in the same mind and the same purpose, that we may be a living witness to your kingdom on earth.

Amen.

***HYMN: 545**

“The Church's One Foundation”

vs 1-4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the Call, we confess that we are often slow to respond to you. You call us to unity, yet we cling to our divisions. You call us to leave behind our nets of security and status, yet we find ourselves tangled in them. We prefer the comfort of the familiar over the challenge of your kingdom. Forgive our hesitation. Free us from the shadows of our own making, and grant us the courage to follow you with immediate and joyful hearts.

(A moment of silent reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear? In Christ, the light has dawned, and the shadows of sin are chased away. Hear the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

In Christ, we are no longer strangers but one body. Let us share the peace of Christ with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 9:1-4 (NIV)

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 27:1,4-9 (NIV)

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.
My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.

EPISTLE: I Corinthians 1:10-18 (NIV)

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

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

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23 (NIV)**

The gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned."

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

This is the Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON GOD'S WORD

Pastor Rob Odum

HYMN: 344

"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

vs 1-4

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of the Harvest, you have called us to labor with you in the fields of the world. We offer these gifts as signs of our commitment to your mission. May these tithes and offerings be used to mend what is broken, to light what is dark, and to bring the good news of the kingdom to all people. Bless the givers and the gifts for your glory.

Amen.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *"Would I Have Answered When You Called"* Arr Vaughan Williams

***DOXOLOGY: 94** *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen

