

# Third Sunday after Christmas

## 11 January 2026

### Pastors: Rev. Bekah Davis

### Rev. Neil Parker





# PRELUDE & MEDITATION

Tomasz Piętak organ

## OPENING HYMN – Ch 174

### Brightest and Best

1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our pathway, and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2 Shall we give Jesus our costly devotion,  
fragrance of Edom, and off'rings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

3 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts Jesus' favor secure.  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration.  
Dearer to God are the gifts of the poor.

4 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our pathway and lend us your aid.

Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.



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## PASSING OF THE PEACE

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## SPECIAL PEOPLE

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# SCRIPTURE READING

## *Acts 10:34-43*

Read by Sandra Nel

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

## SCRIPTURE READING-Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.” Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

# Responsive Psalm

## Psalm 29

Read by: Pastor Neil Parker

Give honour to the Lord, all you heavenly beings; give the Lord glory and strength. Give the Lord the glory that belongs to his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness. The voice of the Lord echoes over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful and majestic. It shatters the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon into pieces. He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes with lightning. It shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. In his temple, all proclaim, “Glory!” The Lord reigns enthroned over the flood; he is King forever. The Lord strengthens his people and blesses them with peace.

# SPECIAL MUSIC

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

VCC CHOIR

Cassandra McConnell-Grujcic,  
Choir Director

A painting depicting a baptism scene. In the center, Jesus is kneeling in a river, holding a person under water. He is wearing a yellow robe. A dove is positioned above him, dropping a white substance into the water. In the background, a crowd of people in period clothing watches from the banks of the river. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a clear sky.

SERMON:

*Sacrament*

# RESPONSIVE HYMN-CH 177

## *What Was Your Vow And Vision*

1 What was your vow and vision,  
revealed and recognized,  
Christ, when you came to Jordan  
and asked to be baptized?

Was there a sudden splendor  
of prophets, priests and kings,  
a wind that stirred the waters,  
a blur of mighty wings?

2 Was this God's call, the crowning  
of all you had become:  
"Go, show and tell my coming,  
my own, my chosen one?"  
Did scripture join with scripture,  
revealing in surprise  
the triumph of a servant  
rejected and despised?

3 We meet you at the water  
and ponder why and how,  
in hope that we may follow  
where God is going now,  
anointed by your Spirit,  
reborn, and energized,  
through deed and word proclaiming:  
"In Christ we are baptized!"



OFFERING  
&  
MEDITATION

Tomasz Piętak organ

## DOXOLOGY – CH 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures  
here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!

A wide-angle photograph of a majestic mountain range. The peaks are covered in a thick layer of snow, with deep shadows in the valleys. In the foreground, a small town is nestled at the base of the mountains, with buildings and houses visible. The sky is clear and blue, suggesting a sunny day.

## PRAYERS

Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

A photograph of a light brown rabbit sitting in a snowy landscape. The rabbit is positioned in the lower right foreground, facing towards the left. Behind it is a large evergreen tree with branches heavily laden with snow. A white wreath hangs from a branch on the left side of the tree. The background is a soft-focus view of more snow-covered trees and a bright, overcast sky.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# CLOSING HYMN – CH 176

## *Sing of God Make Manifest*

1. Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest, to whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them, magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound: myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and king foretold.

2. Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan confessed, "I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do." Then from heaven a double sign - dove like Spirit, voice divine- hailed the true Anointed One: "This is my beloved son."

3. Sing of God made manifest when Christ came as wedding guest and at Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine; further still was love revealed as he taught, forgave and healed, bringing light and life to all who would listen to God's call.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

AMEN

# BLESSING

GO IN PEACE TO LOVE  
AND SERVE LORD.

THANKS BE TO GOD

POSTLUDE

Tomasz Piętak organ