



WRESTLING WITH  
**DOUBT**

FINDING FAITH

The Gospel  
Truth

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

[www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org](http://www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org)

# WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

*Nocturne*

Mark Dorian  
©2007 Dorian Music

## Call to Worship

One: The word of God is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.

**All: But who will illuminate the scriptures for us?**

One: Jesus fulfills the scriptures.

**All: Every letter and stroke of a pen find their completion in him.**

One: Therefore, treat people in the same way you want people to treat you.

**All: This is the Law and the Prophets.**

## Congregational Introit

*Change My Heart, O God*

TFWS 2152

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

**Welcome** – (*Welcome, attendance cards & prayer requests, flowers in memory of Lynn Keck's birthday from her daughter Diana Prat and family*)

## † Opening Hymn

*Thy Word*

CCLI Song # 14301  
Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith  
© 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company  
CCLI License # 1590922

### *Refrain*

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path

1. When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way. Still You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear, as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end

### *Refrain*

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path

2. I will not forget Your love for me. and yet my heart forever is wandering  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; I will love You to the end

*Refrain*

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path

**Blessing for Young Hearts**

**Prayers of the People**

*A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying.  
Online Worshipers may type prayer requests in the Live Chat, taking care for privacy.*

**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.

**Prayer Response**

*I Love You Lord*

CCLI Song #25266  
1978 House of Mercy Music  
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**WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

**Scripture**

Psalm 119:105 (NRSVue)

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (CEB)

Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

John 14:6 (CEB)

Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## Scriptural Response

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen**

**Anthem**

*Psalm 1*

Mark Hayes  
©2008 Beckenhorst Press

**Message**

*The Gospel Truth*

Rev. Bob Rhodes

## WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

### Response to the Word

### Invitation to the Offering

**Offertory**

*Peaceful Piano #22*

Mark Hayes  
©2023 Lorenz Publishing Co.

† **Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Prayer of Confession

**All: God of mystery and wonder, we bring our doubts to you. We confess that all too often, we have allowed doubt to overcome faith. We have turned away when our questions became too hard or too painful. We have preferred easier, smaller imitations of the truth to the life and faith you desire for us. We have sought refuge in certainty. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to a heartfelt belief that is unafraid of doubt, that welcomes mystery, that trusts in you. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.**

One: Hear the good news. Doubt is not the enemy of faith. Believe and rejoice. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

### † Closing Hymn

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

UMH 519

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.
2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world,  
we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand,  
may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

### † Benediction

#### Postlude

*Nachspiel*

Anton Bruckner/Edited Hopson  
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**Liturgical elements from *Discipleship Ministries (UMC)* and *The Abingdon Worship Annual*.**

**Flowers:** in memory of Lynn Keck's birthday from her daughter Diana Prat and family  
**Liturgist:** Sal Butera  
**Organist:** Robert Wuertz  
**Pianist:** Rebecca Cosford  
**Ushers:** Wain Fishburn, Steve Gray, Dan Martin, Peter McCreight  
**Tech Team:** AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes

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#### **JUMC Ministry Team**

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director;  
Theresa Erb, Office Manager; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;  
Erin Wyer, NS Executive Director