



CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 4, 2026

Livestream & In-Person

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Arr. Mark Hayes

* CALL TO WORSHIP

John Wallace

Leader: Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: The brightness of God’s light shines upon all the nations. All are welcomed to the brightness of God’s dawn.

Leader: God gathers us from far away and carries us. With radiant eyes, with rejoicing hearts, we receive the abundance God gives.

People: We respond in praise. With our gifts, with our very selves, we worship God.

* OPENING SONG

“What Star Is This with Beams So Bright”

No. 152

Glory to God

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful - filled what God de - creed, "From
 3 While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im -

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)
 D A D G D A

love - ly than the noon - day light? 'Tis
 Ja - cob shall a star pro - ceed;" and
 in - ward light the Lord con - veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)
 Bm E7 A D G D Em

sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad
 lo! the east - ern sa - ges stand to
 urg - es them, with ten - der might, to
 not our sloth - ful hearts re - fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)
 A D A D G A D

ti - dings of our God to bring,
 read in heaven the Lord's com - mand.
 seek the giv - er of the light light.
 guid - ance of your to use.

CALL TO CONFESSİON AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John Wallace

Leader: The Gospel of John tells us the basis for our judgment is this: "The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil." We confess our sins to God, to whom we have access through faith in Christ. We come in boldness and confidence, not according to our merit, but according to God's grace.

All: God of justice, we confess that our actions are evil whenever we remain passive while others are oppressed; whenever we guard our own prosperity at the expense of those who are poor; or when we ignore the cries of those in need of help. Forgive us, we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world more than loving the light of your righteousness made known to us in Jesus Christ. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to

you and to all who are precious in your sight. We pray in the name of Christ, our Light. Amen.

silence

Leader: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason God sent the Son into the world – not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. We declare the good news of the Gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live a new life in him.**

* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

(Verse 4 only)

No. 440

Glory to God



ANTHEM

"Song of the Wise Men"

Sanctuary Choir

Rigsby Burns, Michael Lombrano, and Will Condrey, percussion

Puerto Rican folk song

adapted by Jill Gallina

From a distant home to the Savior we are going, using as our guide a star so brightly glowing.

Lovely Eastern star that tells the wondrous story. Heaven's light O shine tonight in glory.

From a distant home to the Savior we are going, using as our guide a star so brightly glowing.

Lovely Eastern star that tells the wondrous story. Heaven's light O shine tonight in glory.

Glowing gold we bring unto the manger, lowly, token of His power to reign above most holy.

Glory in the highest, O joyful songs we're singing; to the holy child sweet gifts of love we're bringing.

Bitter myrrh we bring to the child that heaven gave us, token of the pain that He will bear to save us.

Glory in the highest, O joyful songs we're singing to the holy child, the tiny newborn King.

Glory in the highest, O joyful songs we're singing to the holy child, the tiny newborn King.

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(All children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, they may return to their seats to participate in the remainder of worship and Communion.)

* HYMN

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

No. 150

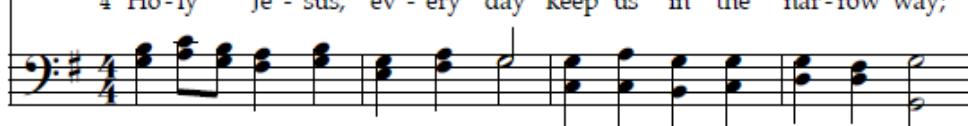
Glory to God



2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,

3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,

4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heaven and earth a - dore;

so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last

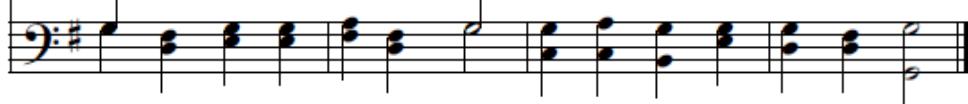


so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.

so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.

all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heaven-ly king.

where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.



SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"
⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON

Right Time – Right Place

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ter,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-gether,

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: We come to the Lord's Supper as a community of believers, renewed by the memory of Christ's life and death, by his real presence in the power of the Holy Spirit, and by the promise of his coming again.

People: Christ makes himself known to us in the breaking of bread.

Pastor: He offers his body broken for our sake and his blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

People: We accept his promises and gifts and depend on his life to sustain ours.

Pastor: In turn we offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the risen Lord who has conquered death.

People: So we celebrate his victory here and now and anticipate the joyous feast in his coming kingdom. Reunited around one loaf and cup, we receive strength and courage to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world.

(If you are worshiping via live stream, place a plate with bread or crackers in your home worship space. Beside it set a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage. With these elements we celebrate the shared presence of Christ that connects and nourishes our communion of faith.)

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

Pastor: We remember that Jesus came to lead followers to feed those who are hungry, shelter those unhoused, clothe those naked, and comfort those afflicted.

We remember that Jesus came to lead followers to destroy injustices, lift up those who are oppressed, break the yokes of those victimized and, at the same time, stop pointing fingers of blame.

And we remember that Jesus sealed the covenant not in a fast of deprivation, but a feast of hope, as he sat at a Passover meal celebrating escape from oppression and claimed that the new Way is bread and fruit and love.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Spirit of Christ, we thank you that your Bread is Body and your Cup is poured for all. Feed us now that we might shake into the world the seasoning of love. Shine on our lives today and give us enough for everyone's tomorrows.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

If you are worshiping via live stream, place a plate with bread or crackers and a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage in your home worship space.

Wherever you are, you are invited to partake of the bread and the cup.

If you are worshiping in person, please come down the center aisle to receive the communion elements. You can choose intinction (dipping the bread into the cup) from the servers nearest the center aisle or bread and individual cups from the servers nearest the outside aisles; partake and return to your seat using the side aisles. All communion bread is gluten free.

Ushers will bring communion to the seats of those who cannot come forward.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

“Communion Hymn”

Sanctuary Choir

text: Mary Lathbury

music: David Kellermeyer

Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me, as Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.

Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord; my spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word!

Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, as Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee.

Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall, and I shall find my peace, my All-in-all.

Thou art the Bread of Life, O Lord, to me; thy holy Word the truth that saveth me.

Give me to eat and live with Thee above. Teach me to love Thy truth, for Thou art love.

Thou art the Bread of Life, O Lord, to me; thy holy Word the truth that saveth me.

Give me to eat and live with Thee above. Teach me to love Thy truth, for Thou art love.

Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: Faithful God, now that we are fed, we recognize how many there are who need a lighted lamp to be lifted high, and it may take several hands to hold it. Now that we are fed, we recognize how many there are who need a taste of hope for tomorrow and who need a sip of courage to face it. Let us not hide the brightness of hope or intensity of courage, for we are your light that shines in the world, revealing your love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“Largo”

Antonio Vivaldi

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

As we begin this new year, we begin with praise: You are our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. You are the fountain of all good, and you shower us with blessings; blessings in the heavenly places, and blessings amid the creation you have made.

You have chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in love. We rejoice and trust that we have been chosen in Christ, even as we wonder how that could be true.

We confess that holiness seems distant, and we are often to blame. Grant us your grace so that we might begin to live again. Help us to remember:

You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of your will.

You chose us in love, simply to bring you delight.

You chose us to be a part of a large family of siblings in Christ.

We pray for our siblings who find themselves in need, distressed and without hope. We lift up those who feel excluded, unwelcome, and alone. May they know how they delight you. Empower us, the church, to help them and feel welcome.

We praise you for your glorious grace that you freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Christ, we are redeemed and forgive. In Christ, we can live again with hope. Help us to embrace this gift and share it with others. Guide us that we may heal divisions, ease enmity, and love others as you love us.

We lift us to you those who find themselves gripped with doubt about your goodness and your plan. Bring them assurance.

We give thanks for all the saints who have walked this way before us, those who were the first to set their hope on Christ. We join our voices with all those who continue to sing your praises with the words Jesus taught his disciples, praying:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but**

deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing, please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.

* CLOSING SONG

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

No. 132

Glory to God



1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"The Lord Whom We Love"

Congregation may join hands

Kurt Kaiser

The Lord whom we love, whom we worship and a -
dore, we will serve through - out this com-ing week. He it
is who binds us to - geth - er, and he it is who sends us a -
part, to be God's peo-ple, be God's peo-ple. A - men.

* POSTLUDE

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Liturgy by Matthew A. Rich, © Presbyterian Outlook, 2026, adapted.

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Audio/Video: Noor Bitar and Michael Gray

Music Director: Keith Atwater

Organist: Heidi Van Regenmorter

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Bass: Merlyn Van Regenmorter

Vocals: Karen Gray, Anita Lawson, & Laura Leek

