

January 26, 2025  
Third Sunday after Epiphany

**PRELUDE** "Aria, BWV 1068" Bach

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL HUNGER OFFERING**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

**God calls us to be builders as well.**

God calls us to build our lives:

**to restore broken places and continue to grow.**

God calls us to build our faith:

**to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.**

God calls us to build our community:

**to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.**

God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

**to preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.**

Let us worship God!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

+ **HYMN: GTG #20** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" ROYAL OAK

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of our Restoration,

whenever we come home to you,

we realize how far we have strayed

and how much we have forgotten

of your law and your love.

*Neh. 8:9*

We have not loved you with our whole hearts

or loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us, heal us,

and restore us to our relationship with you;

through Jesus Christ, in whom we trust. Amen.

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

... God's Word has been fulfilled among us in Jesus Christ,  
who sets us free to live in accord with God's own jubilee.

**Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN: GTG #792** "There Is a Balm in Gilead" BALM IN GILEAD

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

... God, fill us with the power of your Spirit.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School*

**MESSAGE FROM THE BRIDGE BUILDERS TASK FORCE** Monte Shuck

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" arr. Page  
Sanctuary Bells

+ **RESPONSE: GTG #606** OLD HUNDREDTH  
"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

+ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

+ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *A Brief Statement of Faith*  
(United States, 1991)

We trust in God,

whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love,

the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 O.T. page 341  
*Ezra reads the law*

**PSALM** Psalm 19 O.T. page 386  
*The commandments give light to the eyes*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a N.T. page 133  
*You are the body of Christ*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 4:14-21  
*Jesus reads the prophet Isaiah*

N.T. page 47

**RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE**

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

"I Am the Lord of the Dance" adapt. Carter

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus  
"The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength"

+ **HYMN: GTG #772** "Live into Hope" TRURO

+ **CHARGE**

The Spirit is still at work among us,  
disciples of Christ,

sending us to bring good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to those in captivity,

to be healers and a freedom force against all oppression.

Go boldly as disciples, trusting in the Spirit's guidance. *Luke 4:18, 17c*

**Amen.**

+ **BLESSING**

As we go from this place on this day holy to God

we rejoice in the strength of God,

we fix our eyes on the grace of Christ,

and we drink deeply of the Spirit, who makes us one.

*Neh. 8:10*

*Luke 4:20*

*1 Cor. 12:13*

**Alleluia!**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" Lutkin

**POSTLUDE**

"How Firm a Foundation" FOUNDATION

*You are invited to join us  
for fellowship and refreshments  
after worship in the Memorial Room.  
It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.*

**SERVING US TODAY**

Liturgist: Jane Hamelink

Greeters: Joann DePeel and Mary Torrey  
Next Week's Greeters: Boy Scout Troop 763

Sound: Marty Subject

Livestream: Tami Chapman

Security: Tim Hammond

Today's flowers are given by

Anna Lee Lavis

in memory of

Harold Lavis

## CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

### **#15: Persecution:**

After Stephen's death, a Pharisee named Saul and other Jewish leaders arrest many Christians in Jerusalem. All except the apostles are scattered.  
(Acts 8:1-4)

## THE STUDY CATECHISM

### **Question 41. How did Jesus Christ fulfill the office of king?**

He was the Lord who took the form of a servant; he perfected royal power in weakness. With no sword but the sword of righteousness, and no power but the power of love, Christ defeated sin, evil and death by reigning from the cross.

## CREDITS

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## Mason First Presbyterian Church

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www.masonpresbyterian.org

Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### MINISTERS

All Members

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Bill Pinches

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Charlie Herrick

**Spiritual Growth Director:** Lori Filka

**Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director:** Deb Melse

**Office Manager:** Jessica Tessman

**Financial Secretary:** Jess Weber

**Choral Music Accompanist:** Le Ji

**Sexton:** Eric VanDyke

**Office Assistant:** Nancy Sue MacDonald

**Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator:** Michelle Mackey

**Child Care:** Jill Castle, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons, Keren Tayong

### ELDERS

**Class of 2025:** Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Greg Lang, Monte Shuck (*Recording Clerk*).

**Class of 2026:** Bruce Archer (*Clerk*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

**Class of 2027:** Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles

### DEACONS

**Class of 2025:** Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Tom Seely (*Moderator*).

**Class of 2026:** Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald (*Secretary*), Laurie McGonigal

**Class of 2027:** Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

<b>Today</b>	Adult Sunday School ( <i>The Chosen</i> )	11:30 am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Prayer Fellowship ( <i>in the Chapel</i> )	12:00 pm
	Wonderful Wednesday	4:00—6:00 pm
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Personnel Committee	5:30 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	
<b>Saturday</b>	Yarners	10:00 am

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jan. 26: Isaac Reyes	Jan. 29: Linda Myall
Jan. 27: Sloane St. George	Feb. 1: Will Ozee
Jan. 28: Timothy Pinches	

# Mason First Presbyterian Church

## January 26, 2025 Third Sunday after Epiphany



*Jesus Preaching in the Present*  
Söraby Church, Rottne, Sweden  
20th century

*A warm and caring Christ-centered community of faith,  
actively serving and nurturing one another and our neighbors,  
embracing diversity, and fostering spiritual growth*