

*The Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
Annual Meeting*

January 25, 2026



*We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing  
witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.*

## ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



**Welcome** in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

### **ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:**

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

At 10:00 a.m. our hymns and service music is from the blue **Hymnal** found in the book racks in the pews. Numbers that begin with an S- are in the front of the Hymnal.

We occasionally use a supplemental hymn books called Wonder, Love & Praise and Come Celebrate which will be given to you with your bulletin. These are also green books and will be listed as **WLP** or CC.

**HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:**

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies*

**Hymnal 7**

**ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**BCP 355**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, **all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:**  
**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love**  
**you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**GLORIA:** *sung*

**Hymnal S-280**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty  
God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus  
Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have  
mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are  
the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy  
Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people  
the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous  
works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING:** *Isaiah 9:1-4*

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 27:1, 5-13**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;<br>whom then shall I fear?<br>the Lord is the strength of my life;<br>of whom then shall I be afraid?          | 8 Even now he lifts up my head<br>above my enemies round about me.  |
| 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;<br>one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the<br>house of the Lord all the days of my life;                        | 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an<br>oblation with sounds of great gladness;<br>I will sing and make music to the Lord. |
| 6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord<br>and to seek him in his temple.   | 10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call;<br>have mercy on me and answer me.   |
| 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me<br>safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the<br>secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon<br>a rock. | 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my<br>face." Your face, Lord, will I seek.  |
|   | 12 Hide not your face from me, nor turn away<br>your servant in displeasure.  |
|   | 13 You have been my helper; cast me not<br>away; do not forsake me, O God of my<br>salvation.                                     |

**SECOND READING:** *1 Corinthians 1:10-18*

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the

household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN:** 10:00 a.m.

*The people who in darkness walked*

**Hymnal 126**

**GOSPEL:** *Matthew 4:12-23*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

**SERMON:**

The Rev. Patrick Perkins

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of your Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Doug, our Bishop; Miguelina, our Bishop-elect; for our own parish of St. Francis, our clergy, staff, wardens and vestry; for the ministry of unCommon Ground; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Donald, our President; Maura, our Governor; and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints, who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others...

...for the Anglican Church of Chile; for the parish of St. John's, Athol; for the mission of Greater Worcester Habitat for Humanity;

...for peace throughout the world; for the victims of war and terrorism, for the people of Ukraine and Afghanistan, for peace in Sudan, Yemen, and the region of the Middle East; and for those facing famine and drought in Somalia and the Horn of Africa;

... for all Federal and State employees, for the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, especially J. Pigsley, Gregory Smith, Jason Haynes, Mark Williams, Jacob Pezzini, Tyler Jeck, David Lane, Riley Smith, James Cimochoowski;

...for the peace and well-being of all international students, studying abroad in the United States;

...for those in our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Kim Whamond, Maggie Whamond, Chris and Callan Whamond; Clare White; Renee Whitenett and Laura Barry; Tyler, Meg and Alice Will;

...for those in need of healing; Rich, Eric Warner, Kathleen Lloyd Jones, Jack, John Dougherty, Paul Stanovich, Tom, Bev, Judy Crosby, Brenda, Hilda Schinsing, Brad, Judy Capone, Mary Lee and Bob Kraushaar, Jen Gadowski, Jeanette, James Kelly, Carmelita Bello, Andrea McDonald, Mary Mullahy, Kathy Vogel, Richard, Donna Giuliani, Angela Favulli, Patrick Kelly, Priscilla Morris, Maryann Bello, Mark, John, Cate;

...those suffering from homelessness and all types of addiction and mental illness; the residents and staff of Holden Nursing Home; and those who mourn;

...for those who have died;

*Celebrant adds a final collect.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

## THE PEACE

BCP 360

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

#### OFFERTORY HYMN:

*Take my life, and let it be*

**Hymnal 707**

#### OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY

Tune: Hymnal 380

***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.***



## BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### **SANCTUS**

Hymnal S-130

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**BCP 364**

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**FRACTION ANTHEM:**

**Agnus Dei**

**Hymnal S-164**

**COMMUNION HYMN:**

*Where charity and love prevail*

**Hymnal 581**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**BCP 365**

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN:**

*Spread, O spread, thou mighty word*

**Hymnal 530**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace and walk in the Way of Love.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SERVERS THIS WEEKEND:**

Altar Guild: Bev Giarusso, Lucy Nowak, Kim Whamond

Nursing Home: Bev Giarusso

Usher: Kari Currie

Reader: Joel Wesson

LEMs: Laura Caswell, Linda Shelton

# St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness  
to  
Christ's Love

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