

Carlisle/Kilbride United Pastoral Charge

January 18, 2026, 10am at Carlisle

Epiphany 2

Hymn Sing Sunday

led by members of the pastoral charge

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*Those who wish to do so are invited
to respond aloud where indicated by
bold print.*

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we gather in the name of Christ, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Attawandaron, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit, who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.



The Life and Work of the Church (Announcements)

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The light of Christ is in our midst.

Thanks be to God.

Gathering Song: VU 79 (v. 1 & 4) – Arise, Your Light Is Come

Words: Ruth Duck, 1974; Music: William H. Walker, 1872, desc. Diana McLeod, 1995

The chancel choir and congregation of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, take this hymn at an energetic pace. Echoing Isaiah 60:1, Ruth Duck's lyrics are set to a tune known as FESTAL SONG.

[Arise, Your Light Is Come! | The Chancel Choir of Trinity Church](#)

- 1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

- 4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;

God's power will make us strong.

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:

(adapted from "All for You Call to Worship" by Carol Penner, September 16, 2014, leadinginworship.com and from Celebrate God's Presence, 24)

God of all people:

We pray...**it's to you**

We sing...**it's for you**

We read scripture...**to learn about you**

We come together as your church...**following your call.**

As we gather in your house

we dedicate this time to you,

with all our heart and soul

and mind and strength. *(Penner)*

We feel your welcome, gracious God,

in this time of worship.

You welcome young and old,

all seeking peace,

and all brimming over with energy.

You welcome newcomers and long-time members;

all seeking a familiar expression of praise and prayer,

and all seeking a startlingly new celebration of faith.

You welcome us all, welcoming God. (CGP)

As we gather, welcome in your house,

we dedicate our voices and our songs to you,

with all our heart and soul

and mind and strength.

In the name of Jesus, we pray, **Amen.**

New Hymn: Then Let Us Sing! 138 – Let's Go Together (Welcome)

Words: Laurie Zelman, 2007; Music: Mark A. Miller, 2007

This 2007 hymn is found in the "Love-Giving" section of the new UCC hymnal *Then Let Us Sing!* The video is shared by Paul John Robinson, Director of Music and Arts Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Kentucky. Although the musicians' names aren't mentioned in the video description, I believe there are only two . . . who between them have recorded an impressive nine different parts!

Welcome - Words by Mark Miller and Laurie Zelman; Music by Mark Miller

- 1 Let's go together for a while,
and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow,
and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing,

and to plant the seed of peace,
singing welcome, welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let's talk together of a time
when we will share a feast,
where pride and power kneel to serve
the lonely and the least,
and joy will set the table
as we join our hands to pray, R

3 Let's dream together of the day
when earth and heav'n are one,
a city built of love and light,
the new Jerusalem,
where mourning turns to dancing,
ev'ry creature lifts its voice, R

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace: Poem "The Whole Score"

(by Carol Penner, September 6, 2014, leadinginworship.com)

God breathes and the world answers in a symphony of faithfulness.

Songs of services in chapels, halls and tabernacles,
arias of councils and conferences and conventions,
oratorios of missions and campaigns and committees.
The devoted bursting forth in a hundred million hymns,
harmonious, dissonant, raucous and serene.

The voice of the church exhaling its devotion,
praising Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer and Friend.

Angel voices and the saintly crowd of witnesses
hum along as God's kingdom call echoes in the world.

For so long we've tuned into only one part, ours,
examining it, analyzing it to the nth degree,
arguing over our notes, perfecting them, enjoying them.
We know our part by heart,
we sing it lustily.

Then one day God turns the page
and we glimpse the whole score,
infinitely intricate,
more voices than you can shake a stick at
unclouded, unconcealed, unconstrained.

God the great scorekeeper nods
as we suddenly hear the age-old chorus,
the melody of grace in stereophonic surroundsound.
It's there for those who have ears to hear.

New Sung Reponse: Then Let Us Sing! 9 – Glory, Glory, Glory to God (repeat!)

Words & Music: Jason D. Locke, 2015

Jason Locke is a Toronto-based church musician and composer of sacred music who is currently Minister of Music at Islington United Church. On his blog he shares that he composed this energetic Gloria from *Mass for a New Season* in September 2015 for the congregation of St George the Martyr.

Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
glory, glory, glory, to God be praise!
Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth!

Prayer for Illumination:

As we prepare to read and hear this morning's scripture, let us pray.

(adapted from Celebrate God's Presence, 44)

O God,
your Word is a lamp to our feet,
and a light to our path[,]
[and a song for the journey.]
Give us grace to receive your truth
in faith and love. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 40:1-11, read responsively from VU 764

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

Refrain: You put a new song in my mouth, your name to glorify.

I waited patiently for you, O God;
you bent down and heard my cry.

**You lifted me out of the horrible pit,
out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

You put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

**Many shall see and wonder,
and will put their trust in you. R**

Blessed are those whose trust is in God,
**who have not turned to the proud,
nor to those who follow a lie.**
O God, my God, you have multiplied your wondrous deeds
**and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you!**

I would proclaim and tell of them,
but they are more than can be numbered.
Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required.
But you have opened my ears to hear.
And I said: "Here I am,
ready to do what is written in the scroll of the book."
**I delight to do your will, O my God,
your law is in my heart. R**

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;
I did not restrain my lips, as you well know.
**I have not kept your goodness hidden in my heart,
but have spoken of your faithfulness and your saving help.**
I have not concealed your steadfast love,
nor your truth from the great congregation.
**Do not withhold from me your tender care, O God;
may your love and truth ever preserve me. R**

Gospel: John 1:29-42

John Testifies About Jesus (after John denies being the Messiah himself)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

³² Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

John's Disciples Follow Jesus

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

Response:

The words of our faith spoken among us.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Poem: "Singing"

(by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, August 26, 2019, unfoldinglight.net)

Of course the laughing brook is singing.

So are the stones, even the big ones, singing.

The ice in Antarctica, the ice slipping off Greenland,
the river entering the ocean is singing.

Mountains are singing, and not the great deep
sonorous dirges you expect, but little ditties.

Air has a song. Excuse the obvious, but it's a lovely little air.
The rock beneath the soil has a tune it can't get out of its head.

The bottom of the sea and the stars
are joined in intricate six-part harmony.

The man in the moon – look and you'll see –
is a happy man singing a sad song.

Cities sing. Houses sing. Airplanes don't sing but
the people in them sing, long songs streaking across the sky.

Everything is singing, singing. Liturgies and chants,
oldie goldies, sea chanteys, incantations,

wedding songs and elegies, rope-skipping tunes, hymns,
fight songs, and love songs... oh, the love songs.

Your guts are singing all the time, singing.
Your bones are a song. Your skin. Your eyes.

I don't know what this means, but God
is singing a little song in you right now. Always.

Hymn Sing: It is time to share those songs that are alive in our hearts right now. We invite you to request your favourite hymns to sing, whether they are in *Voices United* or *More Voices*. Please give us the hymnal, number, and title so we can locate the music and lyrics.

Invitation to the Offering:

(from Celebrate God's Presence, 47)

Music and laughter,
hands and minds,
curiosity and compassion:
what an abundance of gifts we have!
All these gifts are symbolized in our offering.
Let us commit ourselves in service, as we worship God with our offering.

Offertory: MV 156 – Dance with the Spirit (x2, lyric: sing)

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1995

This short hymn celebrating the Holy Spirit is part of the composer's larger work *Mass for the Healing of the Earth*. It is given a passionate and uplifting performance by Jay Esplana, Sabrielle McCurdy, Lindsay Warnock, and the band at Canadian Memorial United Church in Vancouver.

[Dance with the Spirit | Sunday Service | Canadian Memorial United Church \(CMUC Music\)](#)

Dance with the spirit early in the mornin',
sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.

Invitation to Prayer:

(from Celebrate God's Presence, 52)

There is no joy that does not come from God's hand.
There is no pain that does not echo in God's heart.
Let us bring our thanksgivings and concerns
before God in prayer.

Prayers of the People: "Musical Congregational Prayer"

(by Carol Penner, June 30, 2011, leadinginworship.com)

Thank you for the music all around us.
Each morning we hear it from the moment we open our ears;
the low notes of wind around the eaves,
the whoosh of water as it comes from the tap,
the glug glug as it drains,

the throaty whistle of the boiling kettle,
the metallic tap of the spoon against the cup,
the jazz percussion of our feet on the steps.
The sounds of our day,
so familiar we hardly pay attention.
Thank you for the ability to hear.
Thank you for the sounds of life;
the chatter of the squirrel,
the deep purr of a cat,
the sharp calls of a blue jay,
the sound of someone we love laughing.
Give us wisdom to enter this day with good sounds,
tones and pitches and words that affirm, encourage, cherish,
our sounds affecting the world in a positive way.
We pray for all who sing a sad song today;
the grieving, the lonely, the lost.
We pray especially for those who have lost their voice
and feel silenced or oppressed.
There are many singing freedom songs around our world,
and so today we pray for the safety of these singers.
Give their song the strength to convince and convert,
the power to ward off war.
There are too many war songs,
we don't want to hear another one.
Thank you for your songs, love songs, which we are invited to sing.
Thank you for all the parts you've made for the song;
soprano, alto, tenor, bass.
Thank you for the children's part and the senior's part,
thank you for the youth part and the part for middle agers,
thank you for the crazy baby descant
that we all love to hear.
You are the Great Composer.
We long to be composed each day in your image,
singing your elegant score truly, clearly,
following your rhythm by heart,
finding our voice in your beautiful world.
Hearing you in the music of life.
This is our prayer. Amen.

Lord's Prayer: "#7: Holy!"

(from The Lord's Prayer – Ten Paraphrases by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net)

**O Infinite, Intimate One, Source of our being,
whose presence is heaven,
all Creation sings of you, "Holy!"
May your Realm unfold among us;**

**may our only story be the story of your grace,
this world blossoming out of your delight.
Give us the breath of life, one breath at a time.
Accept our brokenness;
give us acceptance of others who are broken.
Lead us beyond our desires
and save us from cooperating with evil.
For the world is within you;
all power is from you,
and all glory is about you,
in eternity, which is in the present moment. Amen.**

Hymn: VU 535 – For the Music of Creation

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1988; Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1897

Set to the RUSTINGTON tune in an arrangement by Lloyd Larson, Shirley Erena Murray's 1988 lyrics are sung by the Edwards Church Choir in Northampton, Massachusetts, led by Minister of Music David Kidwell. The tune was composed in 1897 by Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, Baronet, an English composer, educator, and musicologist. He served as head of the Royal College of Music from 1895 until his death in 1918 and counted among his students Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst. For an instrumental recording of RUSTINGTON, check out Ionică Bizău's organ performance at The Piarist Church in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

For the Music of Creation

[God, We Praise You! \(RUSTINGTON\) — C. Hubert H. Parry](#)

- 1 For the music of creation, for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression, burst of joy in living things:
God, our God, the world's composer, hear us, echoes of your voice;
music is your art, your glory, let the human heart rejoice!
- 2 Psalms and symphonies exalt you, drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you, tunes that rise from deepest need,
hymns of longing and belonging, carols from a cheerful throat,
lilt of lullaby and love song catching heaven in a note.
- 3 All the voices of the ages in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses, hands that praise, and dancing feet;
over discord and division music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven, song of God that cannot cease!

Commissioning:

(from Celebrate God's Presence, 73)

Go into the world:

dance, laugh, sing, and create.

We go with the assurance of your blessing, O God.

Go into the world:
risk, explore, discover, and love.

We go with the assurance of your grace, O God.

Go into the world:
believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

We go with the assurance of your love, O God.

Thanks be to God!

Benediction:

(adapted from Celebrate God's Presence, 71)

May the God who dances in creation,
who embraces us with human love,
who shakes our lives like thunder,
bless us and drive us out with power,
to fill the world with her [songs.]

Sung Sending Forth: VU 79 (v. 1 & 4) – Arise, Your Light Is Come

Words: Ruth Duck, 1974; Music: William H. Walker, 1872, desc. Diana McLeod, 1995

[Arise, Your Light Is Come! | The Chancel Choir of Trinity Church](#)

- 1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

- 4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

Online Postlude: All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir

This song of inclusion was originally composed and released by American folk musician and singer-songwriter Bill Staines in 1979. It has since become a live performance favourite of Celtic Thunder, an Irish singing group and stage show formed in 2007. Enjoy!

[Celtic Thunder - A Place In The Choir \(Live From Kansas City, 2011\) \(Lyric Video\) \(Official\)](#)