

## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

**Monday, Jan 5:** Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2;

**Tuesday, Jan 6:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12;  
Matthew 2:1-12

**Wednesday, Jan 7:** Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21;

**Thursday, Jan 8:** Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9;

**Friday, Jan 9:** Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a;

**Saturday, Jan 10:** Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31;

### *Epiphany*

#### Choices to Make

There was a funeral in Charleston,  
a funeral for nine people killed by one gun.

There was a funeral in Charleston because the world is a scary place.  
A violent place, a place full of Herods with pistols and broken agendas.  
People could have stayed home. They could have locked their doors,  
closed the curtains, buried themselves the way fear invites us to do.  
We would have understood.

But instead, people came to the funeral.  
They unearthed their hearts.  
They carried the tenderest parts of themselves out into the world  
where the sun could reach them, along with their fear.  
They crowded the pews with black hats and mourning cries.  
They sang "Amazing Grace" when the worst had happened.  
In a world full of fear, we have choices to make—  
bury ourselves and close the curtains,  
or fill the church and choose to sing.  
I'm not saying it'll be easy,  
but if you want to carry the tenderest part of yourself out into the world,  
I'll begin to sing.



## Beginnings Service

### *Epiphany*

January 4, 2026

*Please take the opportunity to fill out the Prayer and Gratitude Card, along with a Connection Card.  
You'll be invited to place them in the offering tray later in the service.*

### ENTRANCE

#### Prelude

#### Welcome

#### Call to Worship

Pastor Jai Miranda

Pastor Joel Everson

In the dark of morning,  
**the stars still shine.**

In the depth of winter,  
**the birds still climb.**

At the start of the year,  
**tender and new,**

God is here.

**God is near.**

Do not rest in your fear.

**God is here.**

So like the stars and the birds,  
**Let us worship holy God.**

### Opening Prayer

## PROCLAMATION &amp; RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

**Jeremiah 31:7-14***After the Reading, the Reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Jimmy Oliver

Psalm 147:12-20

Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

**For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.**

He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

**He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

**He hurls down hail like crumbs-- who can stand before his cold?**

He sends out his word and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

**Praise the LORD!**

Gospel Lesson

**John 1:1-18***Silence follows. Then the People stand as they are able.*

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

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

...

*After the Gospel, the Pastor says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Alisa Isaacs-Bailey

## BE PART OF OUR PICTURE DIRECTORY!

We had folks who were unable to participate in our first round of directory pictures, so here's your second (and final) chance to have a FREE photo taken of you and/or your family. You will receive a free 8x10 and a copy of our completed directory. We hope you will sign up with the directions and link below!

Please let Sarah or Alisa know if you have any questions. You can also call the office and Sarah can schedule your session.

**Directory Picture Day #2: Monday, January 26th**

**2:00 - 8:00 PM**

To schedule your photography appointment online simply go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) and click on photography session sign up. The login is **in2034** and the password is **photos**.

You can also scan the QR code below and use the above login and password.



## STAY CONNECTED

**Want to receive our weekly email updates?**

Sign up here: [www.gobin.live/email](http://www.gobin.live/email)

**Stay in the loop**

Print communication is important. Email can sometimes be even better. And occasionally a quick text message is best! If you'd like to stay "in the loop" and receive text updates about all things Gobin, text the word "loop" to (765)650-4644.

Make sure to save this number as "Gobin Church"!

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

If you or someone you know is ill, injured, or otherwise in need of prayer or visitation, please fill out a prayer card, or let the pastoral staff or church office know. Jai will work to keep us connected.

Here are members of our Gobin connection who need prayer & comfort at this time:

*Margot MacCracken, Brandie Sitton, Andrea Insley, Ashlee Vitz, Sandy Miller, Katie Isaacs-Bailey, Jim & Windy Watt, Phillip Caldwell, Luke & Sherry DeJaynes, Larry Rider, Ann Hansen, Leland Zellers, Marcia Linville, Matt Fruits, Kids Hope mentors & students, Valyrian residents, residents of the Putnam Co. Jail, Kyaw, Vivi, Treasure, Yun Ling, Ajaypal Singh and all ICE detainees in the Clay Co Detention Center*

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please fill out a prayer request card or send an email to [prayers@gobinumc.org](mailto:prayers@gobinumc.org)

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## OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

You may have noticed the votive candles near the entrance to the sanctuary. We invite you to take one and join Wednesday morning prayer from 7:45-8am wherever you are. If you wish to have a candle, but are not able to come to the church, contact us and we will arrange to have someone bring it to you.

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## WAYS TO GIVE

- Make checks payable to Gobin Church
- Text “Gobin” to 73256
- Online at [www.gobin.live/give](http://www.gobin.live/give)
- Scan the QR code



## THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

### Prayers of the People

#### Invitation

#### Confession & Pardon

**Ever-loving God,**  
we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy.

However, we know that is not how the world works.

Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear once again.

So today we pray—

forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.

Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call.

Forgive us when fear is louder than love.

Show us how to turn our fear into action.

Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world.

With hope we pray, amen.

Family of Faith,  
whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid,  
God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:

**Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks,**

**God's love for us is boundless.**

**We are seen.**

**We are surrounded with grace.**

**We are sent to serve.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Passing the Peace

#### Offering

#### Offertory

#### Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures here below.**

**Praise God, above ye Heavenly Host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## Offering Prayer

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Communion Song

### The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

### Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UMH #598

“O Word of God Incarnate”

## SENDING FORTH

### Benediction

### Postlude

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

**Beginnings Service:** 9:30AM

**The Interlude:** 10:30 AM

**Mosaic Service:** 11:00 AM

## CONNECT WITH US:

Phone: **765.658.4010**

Email: **gobin@gobinumc.org**

Web: **www.gobinchurch.org**

## GOBIN SUPPER CLUB

**When:** Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 PM

**Where:** Casa Grande

## GOOD NEWS!

Gobin Church has been selected as a recipient of the National Fund for Sacred Places grant! This incredible honor affirms our ongoing efforts to preserve our historic sanctuary and expand our ministry of beauty, justice, and belonging in the heart of Greencastle.

To learn more about the project and what this means for our future, visit [www.gobinchurch.org](http://www.gobinchurch.org).