

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Monday, Dec 29: Psalm 20; Jeremiah 31:15-22; Luke 19:41-44

Tuesday, Dec 30: Psalm 20; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Wednesday, Dec 31: Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19

Thursday, Jan 1: *Holy Name of Jesus:* Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8;

Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21

New Year's Day: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a;

Matthew 25:31-46

Friday, Jan 2: Psalm 20; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12;

Saturday, Jan 3: Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22;

The First Sunday after Christmas

A Step Toward Home

I will not tell you to buck up,
to tough it out, to ignore the fear
rattling around in your chest.

I will not tell you that all shall be well
or that morning will come quickly.

I will not ask you to march into danger
without first repeating your name in my prayers.

But if fear stops you in your tracks,
if fear makes it hard to breathe,
hard to move,

hard to think,

then I will remind you

that even one step with shaking knees

is a step toward home.



Beginnings Service

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

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

In worship, we hear God's story and we ask,

"What did God do long ago?"

In worship, we hear God's story, so we ask,

"What is God doing, here and now?"

In worship, we hear God's story, then we ask,

"What can I do to respond to it all?"

Listen, God is speaking.

Listen, it may be time to act.

Let us worship our moving, inspiring, with-us God.

Amen.

Opening Prayer

UMH #220

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

After the Reading, the Reader says

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-23

Silence follows. Then the People stand as they are able.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

...

After the Gospel, the Pastor says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Eleanor Howard

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 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

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

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.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Make checks payable to Gobin Church
- Text “Gobin” to 73256
- Online at www.gobin.live/give
- Scan the QR code



THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

Prayers of the People

Invitation

Confession & Pardon

Emmanuel, God with us,

scripture tells us that you were a refugee,
but we love to forget that information.

We love to forget every act of gun violence.

We love to forget how many people go hungry,
or how many students do not have access to good education.

We love to forget the injustices in our world that feel too big for us to face.

But you are a God who refuses to forget.

So today we pray:

make it impossible for us to overlook the stories of those in need.

Make it impossible for us to sweep injustice under the rug.

Open our eyes along with our hearts, so that the anger we feel around
injustice might fuel a fire for action.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

Church family,

even when we fail to do justice, even when we fail to love kindness,
even when we allow fear to override action, freezing us in place,
God still loves us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

On our best days and on our worst days, we belong to God.

We are invited into community. We are held in God's grace. We are
forgiven. And we are sent to serve.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. **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

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.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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.

Hymn

“Let the Fires of Justice Grow”

Insert

SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMASTIDE!

Sunday services held at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM.

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28

Epiphany

January 4

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**

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**.