



*The United Church of Canada*  
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge  
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC  
Trinity and First United  
**Worship leader** Kathy Carlson  
Reader: Donna Wright  
Music: Cheryl Nelson

January 18, 2026

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

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**Land Acknowledgement**

We gather on Treaty 7 land, the traditional territories of the Blackfoot people. We extend our gratitude for their enduring presence and care of the land, that sustained all our ancestors and sustains all of us now. We move together with All Our Relations in a Spirit of reconciliation.

**Call To Worship:**

Bring us out of darkness into light  
O my God,  
bring us out of darkness into light.  
Illumine our hearts with your wisdom.  
Give us light to guide us to you.

O my God,  
shine light into our hearts...  
**light into our ears,**  
**light into our eyes,**  
**light on our tongues,**  
**light at our right hand,**  
**light at our left hand,**  
**light above us,**  
**light beneath us,**  
**light before us,**  
**light behind us.**

Shine light into our souls.  
Flood us with light.  
Lord, expand our hearts,

and prosper our work.

(A Prayer during the Mecca pilgrimage. In: Noticias del Arca, summer 2005)

### **Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymn: MV 1**

**Let Us Build A House**

### **Minute for Mission: Mountains of Service**

If you ever travel to the northern mountains of India and meet a man named Surrender Singh, the first thing he'll do is invite you on a walk. Not a short stroll, but a real mountain trek. And the beauty of the Himalayas is only part of what he wants to show you.

With him as your guide, the trail becomes a story. Every bend holds a memory. Every village has a face he knows.

Many still call him "Singh san" from his time training at the Asian Rural Institute, a Mission and Service partner in Japan. For more than four decades, he has climbed these ridges. As you walk beside him, people call out greetings. He calls them by name. Someone brings tea. He digs in his pack and pulls out bananas or biscuits to share. And suddenly you're not just passing through—you're part of the conversation.

He'll point to a house and tell you how he once slept on the floor there while helping build a water pipeline with the Mussoorie Village Development Committee, the group he now leads. Another turn in the path, and he's showing you the school that has given local children a chance to learn close to home.

And then there are the women's groups. Surrender Singh lights up talking about them. He trained them in organic farming. Now they grow and sell their produce, earning steady incomes and strengthening their families and communities.

By the time you reach the end of the trail, you realize that you haven't just taken a hike. You've walked through the story of a life spent in gratitude and service to others.

Mission and Service partners like the Asian Rural Institute are where leaders like Surrender Singh gain the skills and confidence to transform their

communities. When you support [Mission and Service](#), you help grow this kind of leadership and community—the kind that takes root, spreads, and changes lives, one mountain path at a time.

### **Mission Prayer**

God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in God. Our first response to God’s providence is gratitude. We sing thanksgiving. Amen

### **Prayer of Reconciliation & Freedom**

#### **Hymn: MV 18**

#### **Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary**

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true; with thanksgiving,  
I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.

### **Scripture:**

Isaiah 49: 1-7 (the Message translation)

A Light for the Nations

Listen, far-flung islands,  
pay attention, faraway people:  
God put me to work from the day I was born.  
The moment I entered the world he named me.  
He gave me speech that would cut and penetrate.  
He kept his hand on me to protect me.  
He made me his straight arrow  
and hid me in his quiver.  
He said to me, “You’re my dear servant,  
Israel, through whom I’ll shine.”

But I said, “I’ve worked for nothing.  
I’ve nothing to show for a life of hard work.  
Nevertheless, I’ll let God have the last word.  
I’ll let him pronounce his verdict.”

“And now,” God says,  
this God who took me in hand  
from the moment of birth to be his servant,

To bring Jacob back home to him,  
to set a reunion for Israel—  
What an honor for me in God's eyes!  
That God should be my strength!  
He says, "But that's not a big enough job for my servant—  
just to recover the tribes of Jacob,  
merely to round up the strays of Israel.  
I'm setting you up as a light for the nations  
so that my salvation becomes global!"

God, Redeemer of Israel, The Holy of Israel,  
says to the despised one, kicked around by the nations,  
slave labor to the ruling class:  
"Kings will see, get to their feet—the princes, too—  
and then fall on their faces in homage  
Because of God, who has faithfully kept his word,  
The Holy of Israel, who has chosen you."

John 1: 29-42 (the Message translation)

#### The God-Revealer

The very next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I've been talking about, 'the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.' I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God."

John clinched his witness with this: "I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, 'The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' That's exactly what I saw happen, and I'm telling you, there's no question about it: This is the Son of God."

#### Come, See for Yourself

The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb."

The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, "What are you after?"

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

He replied, "Come along and see for yourself."

They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John's witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, "We've found the Messiah" (that is, "Christ"). He immediately led him to Jesus.

Jesus took one look up and said, "You're John's son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas" (or Peter, which means "Rock")

**Message: Jesus Comes To the World (And Not Just Us...)**

**Hymn: VU 509**

**I The Lord of Sea And Sky (Here I Am Lord)**

**Offertory: Doxology: MV 191**

**What can I do?  
What can I bring?  
What can I say?  
What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy.  
I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love.  
I'll do my share.**

**Offertory Prayer:**

Caring Spirit,

We bring to you today, the offerings of our hands. As offerings have been a part of our faith story from the Beginning, we carry on giving back for the boundless grace given to us. May our gifts, our talents and skills, our wisdom continue to glorify your Christ Spirit with our neighbours. Way we carry from our tables, enough for all to share. Amen

**Prayers of our Hearts and the Prayer of Jesus:**

Please Respond to Each Prayer of Our Heart with “Divine, Hear Our Prayer.”

**Closing Hymn: VU 87**

**I am the Light of the World**

**Commissioning and Benediction:**

**Sung Blessing: MV 646**

**We are Marching**

1        We are marching in the light of God,  
             we are marching in the light of God. x2

          We are marching, oo-oo,  
             we are marching in the light of God. x2

2        Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',  
             siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. x2

          Siyahamba, oo-oo,  
             siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. x2