



Christ United

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

01-25-2026

Welcome!

(Stand)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Alleluia. Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom

C: and cured every sickness among the people. *Alleluia.*

(Matt. 4:23)

P: Our mission statement guides us so that:

C: We welcome all people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

A: Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

Opening Song Song sheet (Stand)

Prayer of the Day:

P: Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

A: First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4 **(Sit)**

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

A: Second Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23 **(Stand)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter

C: Glory to you, Lord Christ

The Gospel lesson is read

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Kids Time and the Sermon (Sit)

Song of the Day Red Hymnal #654 (Stand)

Apostles' Creed (Stand)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

P: To God who welcomes all in love, let us pray for the good of the church and the concerns of those in need.

A: Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer**

A: Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet.

Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,, **C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

A: Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

Other intercessions may be offered by anyone at this time.

P: God of every land and nation, you have created all people and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ. Listen to the cries of those who pray to you, and grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name, all people will know the power of love at work in the world. We asked this through Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

The Peace is shared at this time

P: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

C: And also with you.

People may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

Offering - January Noisy Offerings Samaritas (Lutheran Social Services) **(Stand)**

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,

C: You have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, both now and forever.

P: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

C: Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Sit) *The Bread is broken*

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

C: Thanks be to God.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion today is open to all. The Episcopal and Lutheran Churches believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.

Communion is either wafer and individual cup, or celebrated as spiritual communion. You will receive a wafer from the pastor (gluten-free wafers are available upon request). You will then take a cup from the tray the assistant is holding (wine in the outer rings, grape juice in the center). Eat the wafer and drink from the cup. You will not be ushered but ask that you come forward when ready and return to your seat when you have received communion.

(Stand)

P: Let us pray.

C: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The Blessing

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Song Red Hymnal #715 (Stand)

Announcements

Faith Word for the Week:

Last week's words: Be a blessing

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: And Next Week

C: Bring a Friend!

P: Presiding Minister **A:** Assisting Minister **C:** Congregation

Announcements and Events

Budget

As our accountant will be gone for a few weeks, the budget has been completed and has been emailed out for your review. We will discuss briefly over the next couple weeks. Please contact your Steering Team for any concerns. Giving Statements will be available by early February.

Moving Forward

Pastor Bryan is now our Interim Pastor. He will be at CU on Tuesdays. He plans to hold open office hours from 10AM-12Noon if you just want to stop by and visit. For Pastoral Care concerns, he can be reached at (616) 606-3334 or bryanscht@gmail.com.

Call Team

See the email from Rick Houghton on Call Team activities. We need input from all of you as we prepare for whomever God has planned as our next pastor. We will meet after services on Jan 18 and Feb 1.

Bible Study

Gospel of Matthew will be on break for the next 2 weeks, resuming Jan 28 at 10AM

Weekly/Monthly Events

Bible Study - Wednesday morning 10am

LGBTQIA+ Bible Study - Third Monday of the month at 7pm at Phillips Cider Bar and Market in Frandor.

Welcome to Christ United

Here is some information to help you feel welcome:

Relax - We don't expect you to stand up and introduce yourself or do anything which makes you feel uncomfortable. Most everything you need is in the bulletin.

Worship Service:

Children are always welcome in worship - There are some small toys in the entrance of the church for your use. The Pastor will invite children to be part of a "Kid's Time" before the sermon. Please feel free to move about as needed to make your children feel comfortable.

Bulletin and Music: Most everything you need is in the bulletin. We also use a variety of music resources, including hymnals and song sheets. Hymnals are located on the cart when you first come into the church. The sign next to the cart will direct you to which to pick up, the 'red' hymnal and/or the 'burgundy' hymnal. Song sheets are located by the bulletins.

Offering - Don't feel obligated to participate in the offering on your first visit. This service is our gift to you. Offering is a response to what God has given us. We also collect a "noisy offering." This is an offering of loose change for needs in our community and world. Each month the offering goes to a different need. The ideas for each of the offerings come from the participants in this ministry.

All are welcome to receive Communion - Whether you are a Christian or not, anyone can take communion here. Also, if you do not want to participate in the receiving of communion, feel free to come forward with your arms folded to receive a blessing.

Building - Restrooms are located on the lower level, at the far end of the building. Bathrooms are for all genders.

Refreshments after Worship - Please join us downstairs after worship for refreshments.

We're glad you came today and look forward to seeing you again! If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us.

Christ United

An Interdenominational Church founded by the Episcopal & Lutheran Church. Welcoming ALL people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas - pastor.christuniteddewitt@gmail.com

(616) 608-3334 **9:00 AM Sunday Worship** with Communion. Also broadcasting live on Facebook. 1000 West Webb Road, DeWitt, Michigan 48820 www.christuniteddewitt.com