



ASHLAND PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 4, 2026 Epiphany Sunday

— *We Gather* —

PRELUDE

Faith Op. 102, No. 6
Alicia Luttrell

Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND PARISH NOTICES

Please take this time to sign the attendance pad located in your pew, or scan the CONNECT QR code located on the back of this bulletin.

Rev. Jennifer Porto

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

Three chimes signify the presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace in this new year.

Emily McGough

We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.
In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

We have been redeemed as God's own people. Praise be to God!

♪❖ HYMN OF PRAISE

Hail to the Lords Anointed

UMH 203

— *We Listen* —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Illuminating God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, reveal to us through the reading of these words
your Word become flesh, living among us full of grace and truth. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE PSALTER

Psalm 147:12-20

UMH 859-860

Today's Acolyte: Annie and Sally Dodson

❖ *Please Stand in body or spirit Bold Print – Congregation Reads Aloud*

EPISTLE LESSON**Ephesians 1:1-12**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

♪❖HYMN OF PREPARATION***We Three Kings***

UMH 254

❖GOSPEL LESSON**John 1:10-18**

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

May God bless the reading of the Word. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON**"Grace Upon Grace"**

Dr. Darren McClellan

— WE RESPOND —**❖AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—The Apostle's Creed**

UMH 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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. *universal

♪❖GLORIA PATRI**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;****As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

INVITATION, CONFESSiON and PARDON

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

❖PASSING OF THE PEACE *As forgiven and reconciled people, let us pass the Peace of Christ with one another.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Way Maker

Sinach

Wes Cooper and Valencia Montgomery

♪❖DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Service of Word and Table II

UMH 13-15

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

— *WE GO FORTH* —

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

♪❖HYMN OF INVITATION

Jesus Shall Reign

UMH 157

❖BENEDICTION

❖POSTLUDE

Ellacombe

arr. Monk

❖ FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR AND BALCONY are here today to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage ceremony yesterday of Alex Patrick and Ann Kay Alexander, daughter of Stephanie and Alan Alexander and granddaughter of Kay Adkins.



WELCOME

We want to thank you for choosing to worship with us at Ashland Place United Methodist Church. If you have questions about church activities, church membership, or the Christian faith, we would love to speak with you.



CONNECT

Are you visiting today? If so, please scan this QR code to complete a CONNECT card, or contact a staff member to assist you.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Dr. Darren McClellan dmcclellan@apumc.com
Associate Pastor	Jennifer Porto jporto@apumc.com
Music Director	Alicia Luttrell musicdirector@apumc.com
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Preschool	Camille Hieronymus preschool@apumc.com
Building Steward	Danny White building@apumc.com

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offering Received 12/24 and 12/28 \$15,632



To support the many ministries of APUMC, please scan this QR code and donate online.

ONLINE GIVING

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

January 4, 2026

9:00am	Ascension Modern Service (FH)
10:00am	Sunday School
11:00am	Traditional Sanctuary Service (S)
Monday	Men's Study Group, 7:00am (WP)
Tuesday	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00am (FP)
Wednesday	The Joseph Project, 9:30am (DW) Pastor's Class, 6:00pm (FP)
Thursday	Men's Bible Study, 7:00am (WP) The Joseph Project, 9:30am (DW) Trivia Night, 7:00pm (206 State St.)
Friday	Office Closed

FP-Fellowship Parlor, S-Sanctuary, WP-Wisteria Parlor
B-Basement, DW-Dumas Wesley, 126 Mobile Street

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Ladies who lunch will meet on January 11 in the Wisteria Parlor, immediately following the 11:00 service. Please RSVP by January 8 to lwstreet@gmail.com. A donation of \$10 is appreciated and all ladies are invited.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Monday morning women's bible study will resume on January 26. Stay tuned for more details.

ACOLYTES

If your child or youth is interested in serving in our acolyte ministry, please contact Rev. Jennifer Porto at jporto@apumc.com. We are looking for acolytes for both services.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Please hold these persons in your prayers:
Fay Adams, John Allen, John and Angela Bell, Jean Brown & son James Williams, Bob Cook, Braxton & Linda Lee Counts, Judie Crowther, Julie & Steve Dugan, Jake Elder, Miyon Ellis, Phillip Fields, Bruce Finley, Missy Foose, Russell Fountain, Marcia Golson, Curt Graf (Curtis Graf's father), Holly Hastings (Dee Dee Cook's sister), Diane Holub (Angela Prine's mother), Barbara Hunt, Andrew Irby, Tyler Mazey, David Richards, Sara Robinson, Tom Root, Mary Davis Rutledge, Nancy Scott, Lonn Spencer, Jody Thompson (Pam Bostick's brother-in-law), Louise Thomson, Sherry Thomson, Robert Wheeler (Emily McGough's brother), Merrill Whitener, Kathryn Willingham, and all caregivers (*new concern this week)

Hymns and Responses for January 4, 2026

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH 203

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.
4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove; his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

We Three Kings

UMH 254

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh; prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice: Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Jesus Shall Reign

UMH 157

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run; his kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To Jesus endless prayer be made, and endless praises crown his head; his name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song; and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns; all prisoners leap and loose their chains; the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King; angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen!

Psalter Reading from Psalm 147:12-20

Psalm 147

RESPONSE (*Christmas, Epiphany & General*)

Charles Wesley
Robert Williams



Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove: Al - le - lu - ia!

R

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

**The Lord strengthens the bars of your gates,
blesses your children in your midst,
makes peace in your borders,
fills you with the finest wheat.**

**The Lord sends forth commands to the earth;
the word runs swiftly.**

The Lord gives snow like wool,
scatters hoarfrost like ashes,
**casts forth ice like morsels;
who can withstand its cold?**

The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
makes the wind blow, and the waters flow.

**The Lord declares the word to Jacob,
the statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

The Lord has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know God's ordinances.

Praise the Lord!

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