

# *Potsdam United Methodist Church*



*Second Sunday After Epiphany*  
*January 18, 2026*

# Second Sunday After Epiphany ~ January 18, 2026

Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available, \*Please stand, whether in body or in spirit.

*At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.*

## WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

### ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

**PRELUDE** *from Chaconne in F Minor* Johann Pachelbel

*As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer*

**INTROIT** *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* [TFWS 2050 VS 1&3]

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Children of God, who has God called you to be?

**P:** **A light to all the nations!**

**L:** When confusion, disunity, and misinformation threaten to undo us,  
who are you called to be?

**P:** **A light to all the nations!**

**L:** When wars and rumors of wars in our communities and around the  
world overwhelm us, who are you called to be?

**P:** **A light to all the nations!**

**L:** When the vulnerable are left without care or hope for flourishing,  
who are you called to be?

**P:** **A light to all the nations!**

**L:** Come! Let us worship God, who gives us as a light of good news to  
all the nations!

**All:** **We come to worship God, who calls us and equips us to reflect  
God's glory and abundant life into all the world. AMEN**

### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

**All:** **Guide our feet, Lord. Show us the light of grace when we would  
judge others too harshly. Warm our hearts with the glow of your  
love when we would spew icy words of spite. Illumine our souls  
with joyful delight when sadness tries to take over the day.  
Shine brightly on us today, Lord, until we reflect your glory as a  
witness to this world. AMEN**

*Written by Kwasi Kena, The Africana Worship Book Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 84.*

**\*HYMN** **Great Is Thy Faithfulness** **UMH #140**

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE**

**All:** **And so, we live our lives imperfectly, for we are flawed.  
But we are also loved by the God in whose image we were created.  
Let us remake ourselves toward that image as we make our  
confession before God and each other.**

**Redeemed, we embrace the good news:**

**The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting!**

**Relieved and renewed, we proclaim the good news:**

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! AMEN!**

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG...  
**CHOIR ANTHEM**      *Rise, Shine!* by, Dale Wood (from the Augsburg)

... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!  
GOD’S WORD - THE NEW TESTAMENT      1 Corinthians 1:1–9  
GOD’S WORD - THE GOSPEL      John 1:29–42  
GOD’S WORD - THE OLD TESTAMENT      Isaiah 60:1-6

THE MESSAGE      Phosphorescence; A sermon for Dark Times  
Written by Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber on January 12, 2026  
Shared with Potsdam UMC by Rev. Heidi Chamberlain on January 18, 2026, as  
a prayer for light in the face of dark times.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**\*HYMN**      *O Jesus, Your Love Has Called Us Here*      **UMH #396**

THE PRAYER OF GOD’S PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (**UMH #270**)  
*Responding to God’s invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts*

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**      *Deep River*    **African-American Spiritual**  
arr. Craig A. Penfield

**\*THE DOXOLOGY**      *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*      **UMH #94**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**  
**All:** Ever-Present and Calling God, knowing us from the beginning,  
naming us as your own, you have entrusted us with the holy work of  
bearing your light to the world.  
Though we often feel unworthy or uncertain, you remind us that your  
grace goes before us, and your strength works through us.  
Receive these gifts, offered with gratitude and hope.  
Use them—and us—to proclaim your justice, to shine your love  
to the ends of the earth, and to glorify your name.  
In the name of Christ, your Servant and our Savior, we pray. **AMEN**  
(Isaiah 49:1-7)

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

**\*HYMN**      *The Summons*      **TFWS #2130**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**  
**L:** As we leave this place, remember: God, who chose you before your birth,  
who calls you and knows you by name, now sends you out into the world—  
to bring light to those in darkness,  
comfort to those who grieve,  
hope to those who despair.  
And may the blessing of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit  
be among you and within you as you seek to do God’s will. **AMEN!**

**POSTLUDE**      *Gaudete*    **John Marsh**  
*Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!*



# THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



“Faith is not a once-done act, but a continuous gaze of the heart at the Triune God. Believing, then, is directing the hearts' attention to Jesus. It is lifting the mind to 'behold the Lamb of God,' and never ceasing that beholding for the rest of our lives.” – *Aiden Wilson Tozer*

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from [MinistryMatters.com](https://www.ministrymatters.com) & <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning> ©2026

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES

- **The Good Cup:** Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.
- **Super Church - Sunday School:** January 25th.
- **Hearts and Hands on a Mission Craft Group:** 1st Thursday of each month, 2-4pm at the Parsonage. The next meeting is February 5th.
- **A Journey Through Grief:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 4-6pm in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is February 12th.
- **Cheery'Os:** Will meet on Tuesday, January 20th at 11:30am. Please bring your lunch if you would like. Cookies and beverages will be provided.
- **Finance Meeting:** Tuesday, January 27th at 10:00am.
- **Ash Wednesday:** Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

Worship Participants			
<b>Microphone:</b> Norm Gardner		<b>Acolytes:</b> Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish	
<b>Counters</b>		<b>Readers</b>	
Jan. 18:	Tom Ortmeyer, Christa Carroll	Jan. 18:	Christa Carroll
Jan. 25:	Carrie Livernois, Tom Ortmeyer	Jan. 25:	Kathy Demo
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>		<b>Fellowship Time Hosts</b>	
Jan. 18:	Nancy Matthews	Feb. 1:	Carol Willmert
Jan. 25:	Kathy Demo	March 1:	Carrie Livernois
		April 5:	Robin Howard & Judy Haer

**Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain**

**Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen**

**Guest Musician ~ Debby Nikkari**

**Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676**

**Pastor's Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain**

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) **OR** the Church office: 315-265-7474

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Website: [www.potsdamumc.org](http://www.potsdamumc.org) ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>

If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) - <https://tinyurl.com/2s3mtnr5>