

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE

John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And 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.’ ”) ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No 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.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

(After Children’s Moment, children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Children’s Church in Room L8, located downstairs. Children will return to the Sanctuary to receive Communion with their families.)

SERMON

~ Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling

*HYMN #242

Love Came Down at Christmas

GARTAN

*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Let us confess our sins,
for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

God of love and compassion,
You have come into the world and yet we have not recognized you. Forgive our lack of insight and open our eyes to see you here and now, that we may receive your grace through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

Friends, hear the good news of your salvation:
God freely bestows God’s grace on us through Jesus Christ.
In Christ we receive redemption and forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of the grace that God lavishes on us. So be reconciled to God and one another.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Hear our prayer.**)

Thanksgiving

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #95

OLD 100TH

**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. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

See pp. 13-14 in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.
[We offer a gluten-free element option and always use grape juice, not wine]

THE LORD’S PRAYER (spoken)

**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 COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*HYMN #206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Leading Today’s Worship Service:

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Sara Keeling, Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

Liturgist: Kelly George

Pianist: Rev. Stephanie Bekhor

Children’s Sharing: Linnea Carlson

Join us for Coffee Fellowship by exiting the side door to the gathering area.

* * *

Please stand, as able, for those acts of worship marked with an asterisk*.

Words in bold type indicate a congregational response.



Congregational Prayers

Healing and Sympathy:

~For Susan Newton, who will be undergoing treatment for cancer of the gallbladder.

~Healing prayers for Alize and Roger.

~Healing prayers for Libby Rogers, Lowell, Jay and Judy, family of Lisa Wilson.

~For Mark S., as he recovers from surgery. Mark is the husband of Cindy Huber's cousin.

~For Chris C., a friend of Cindy Huber, who is recovering from fractures after a fall.

For those battling cancer and long-term illness: Heather Weir, Karen Watkins, Elizabeth Carnahan, Keith Fairbrother, Jason Micheli, Sally, Joel, Chi Bahn, Christine, Mindy, Judy, Yarikza, Kate Heavner, Peter Joyce, Cindy, Tom Benson, Kay Lewis, Justin, Kent Sapp, Latifa Sharif, Rozanne, Dena, Mary Hays, Thomas Greving.

Prayers for the World:

~For peace around the world and an end to war in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Yemen, Myanmar and freedom for the millions of people living in lands occupied by countries that invaded their homelands.

To submit a prayer concern go to our website [mountolivetumc.com/prayers](https://www.mountolivetumc.com/prayers) or use the back of the attendance card.

Register your attendance using the QR code below or by using the attendance card located in the pew rack.



Announcements

Save the Date, Annual Youth Mission Play

Mark your calendars for the Mount Olivet Players production of *Pandemonium*. Join us on February 6, 7, 13 and 14 for our evening performances at 7 PM. The matinee will be held on Sunday, February 15 at 3:30 PM. All donations go to support youth missions at Mount Olivet.

Supper & Service

Looking for an easy service project? Join us for Supper and Service on Wednesday, January 7 at 6 PM. A light supper is served followed by a service activity. Dinner and the activity last one hour, from 6-7 pm. Sign up at the link on our website.

Community Assistance

It's time to volunteer for Community Assistance. Our next event is on Saturday, **January 10**. Please volunteer to help our neighbors in need receive some much-needed help with food and gift cards. Slots to volunteer are available from 8:00 am through 12:45 pm. Sign up on the SignupGenius at the link on our website.

You can make a financial contribution to Community Assistance, at <https://www.mountolivetumc.com/giving> and indicate Community Assistance. Thanks for your continued support of our Community Assistance Ministry.

Stewardship

As we look ahead to a new year, we invite you to prayerfully consider what "Why Church" means to you. Please consider how you can financially support our church and place your pledge card in the offering plate today, mail to the church or submit online. [mountolivetumc.com/stewardship](https://www.mountolivetumc.com/stewardship)

Find additional announcements and more on our website [mountolivetumc.com](https://www.mountolivetumc.com) or subscribe to our weekly e-news.

January 4, 2026, 9:15 am

Welcome to worship at Mount Olivet! During this season of Christmas, we hope you find moments of peace, joy, hope, and love during our time of worship together. May the presence of Christ bless and sustain you now and always!

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace in this new year.

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 #240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Giving God, you have adopted us as your children, siblings of your beloved, Jesus Christ. Empower us to be holy and blameless witnesses to your glorious reign of peace and love now come into this world. Amen