



ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 26, 2025 | Third Sunday after the Epiphany

8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

TRINITY CHIMES

† WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

arr. Joel Raney

INTROIT

“Gather Us In”

TFWS 2236

Annie Roncolato (8:45), Benson Memorial Chancel Choir (11:00)

* GREETING

Cortney Babajtis (8:45), Pat Lee (11:00)

The law of the Lord is perfect. It revives the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are sure. They make wise the simple.

The fear of the Lord is pure. It endures forever.

The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous all together.

These are to be more desired than gold and sweeter than honey!

In keeping these words there is great reward.

* OPENING HYMN

“God Is Here”

UMH 660

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,

may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts

wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

GUEST WIFI PASSWORD: welcome2bmumc!

* Please stand as you are able. † Please register your attendance in the friendship pads.

Children are welcome in the service. Children’s worship bags are in the narthex.

Nursery care is available in room 113 in the Fellowship Building.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

* OPENING PRAYER

**O Lord, embrace us with your generous presence and mold our hearts to be holy.
Remind us with each step through life of your mighty grace and guide us to love others
as you first loved us. Let our faith not be idle but, sparked by the Spirit, let it help build
your kingdom as we welcome all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

FIRST READING

[Psalm 19:1-6](#)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

HYMN (8:45)

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

UMH 375

REFRAIN:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. [REFRAIN]

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
and if you look for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend. [REFRAIN]

If you can't preach like Peter, if you can't pray like Paul,
just tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all. [REFRAIN]

ANTHEM (11:00)

“Church Is More Than Just A Building”
Benson Memorial Chancel Choir

Amanda Udis-Kessler

SECOND READING

[Luke 4:14-21](#)

SERMON

“The Center of the Gospel”

The Reverend Alan Felton

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The Apostles’ 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.**

* GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

**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.**

* THE PEACE

COMMISSIONING OF THE 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

OFFERING

Offertory

“Reflections on the Spirit”

Joel Raney

* Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH 95

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.

* CLOSING HYMN

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

TFWS 2241

The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus’ name
to bring glad tidings to the poor, God’s favor to proclaim.

We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.

Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim.
God’s Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus’ name.

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

* TRINITY CHIMES

* POSTLUDE:

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

arr. Don Hustad

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SYMPATHY

We offer our condolences to Kristy Johnson, whose father, Mitchell Stanley, passed away on Friday, January 17, 2025. Please keep this family in your prayers.

REQUEST FOR PRAYER

To add a person’s name to our prayer concerns in the bulletin, please contact Martha Johnston at office@bensonmemorialumc.org. If you would like to submit an urgent and private request for prayer, please contact Terry Simpson at cterryz@bellsouth.net.

REQUEST FOR VISITATION

If you know someone undergoing surgery or who would like to be added to the lay pastor visitation list, please contact Leta Grady at 919-270-2228 or Kay Stockett at 919-788-0300. All calls are confidential.

STAFF

[Alan Felton](#), Pastor | [Cortney Babajtis](#), Minister of Families and Outreach

[Martha Johnston](#), Director of Communications/Administration | [Lisa Beckham](#), Business Manager

[Annie Roncolato](#), Director of Music Ministries/Organist | [Jennifer Riggert](#), Director of Chimes Choir/Instrumental Ensemble

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