



Sunday, January 25, 2026

10:00 a.m.

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

- 1 Corinthians 1:10 -



Pastor Erik Allen

“Seeing and Hearing Differently”



2201 E. 106th Street, Carmel IN 46032 ☎ kogcarmel.org

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

Michael Burkhardt

Gathering Song

Knowing You

Call to Worship

P: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

C: **God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble, and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!**

P: Day after day, we seek God's face and the assurance of God's love:

C: **O God, do not turn from us or hide your face from us! Be our guide and our light instead!**

P: One thing we ask of God:

C: **That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our life, and never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.**

P: Beloved of God, enter this worship in thanksgiving, for God is among and within us!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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

C: **And also with you.**

pass the peace as you feel comfortable

Song

Kyrie Eleison

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✠ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord God, your lovingkindness 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.**

please be seated

Lesson

I Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Pastor Erik

Sermon

"Seeing and Hearing Differently"

Pastor Erik

Hymn

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

ELW 817

The Apostles' Creed

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

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.**

please be seated

The Offering

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code
or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary



Offering Response

Will You Come and Follow Me
(vs 5)

ELW 798

Offertory Prayer

P: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Prayers of the Church *(the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.)*

Members: Donna, Bob, Joan, Jeff, Lee, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Charles, Mark, Faizah, Tom, Chris, Chuck,
Sylvia, Bill, Ken, Dana, Marie, Mary, Carol, Susan, Bob

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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!

Invitation to Communion

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

C: **Amen.**

please be seated.

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Benediction

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.**

Song

Oh How Good It Is

Sending

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

"Trumpet Tune"

William Boyce

PRAYER REQUESTS

Members

Kelly Baugh

Lee Bucher

Bob Inskeep

Marion Loyda

Jeff Minich

Donna Otto

Vickie Samspon

Marj Schott

Family & Friends

Tom Anderson, Bob Bohn, Marcia Duhm, Mary Hall, Carol Happ, Brenda Ingle, Charles James, Ken North, Billy Ross, Chuck Sousa, Faizah, Chris, Wendy, Sylvia

Announcements

Assistant Teacher for Gloryland

We are looking for an assistant teacher to help with the K-5 Gloryland class. We would like someone who can help the lead teacher with the week's activity or lesson by passing out supplies, taking part in group discussions, and assisting the kids as needed. We would appreciate your help once or twice a month, on Sundays at 9-9:45 a.m. (The schedule is flexible based on your availability, and you would know the dates ahead of time.) If you are interested in helping out or have any questions, please contact Liz Lichtenberger at ehv1215@yahoo.com.

Join us for Youth Activities

Youth group and Catechism will meet this Sunday evening from 5:00-7:00 pm! Youth group will meet upstairs in the youth room. Catechism will meet in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to provide a meal on Sunday night, please signup by following this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090444A9AF2EA31-58484315-catechism>

Euchre Night - Rescheduled

It is time for some more fun and fellowship at Euchre Night hosted by the Fraziers. Join us in Fellowship Hall next Saturday, January 31 at 7:00. Bring a snack to share, a non-alcoholic drink, and friends or neighbors. Beginners welcome.

Devotions for Lent available February 8

"Love Outpoured" focuses on portions of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. In words that continue to speak to us today, Paul lays out foundational beliefs for a life of faith in Christian community. With diverse voices and pastoral wisdom, the daily devotions encompass Ash Wednesday through Easter. Keep an eye out and pick one up on the table in front of the Sanctuary or the Gathering Place Desk.

Weekly Activities

- SUNDAY, January 25

9:00 am Christian Ed
10:00 am Worship
1:00 pm Lion Dance Rehearsal
5:00 pm Catechism & Youth
5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chinese Dance Group

- MONDAY, January 26

10:00 am Craft Group
6:30 pm Chinese Choir
7:00 pm Sarah Circle

- TUESDAY, January 27

4:30 pm Lion Dance
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

- WEDNESDAY, January 28

8:30 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am WOW
3:00 pm Women's Prayer Group
6:00 pm Friendship Bible Study
7:00 pm Choir Practice

- THURSDAY, January 29

5:45 pm ISSMA Rehearsal
6:15 pm Girl Scouts

- FRIDAY, January 30

6:00 pm Lion Dance
7:30 pm Chinese Dance Group

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: God Made Known in the Transfiguration of Jesus

As the season of Epiphany progresses we look toward the Transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus is God-with-us, the Word made flesh, and on the mountain His glory shines through for all to see. Yet Jesus did not come to earth to be a spectacle. His incarnation is not for His own sake. Like everything He does, it is for the sake of the world God loves. We remember the Transfiguration when Jesus is crucified. We remember how He was clothed in dazzling light when we see Him clothed in suffering and blood. We remember how He spoke with Moses and Elijah when we see Him laid in the tomb. We know that He is the Mighty One, the Holy One of God, who humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross—and in this we rejoice. God's glory is hidden in Christ, and we are hidden in Christ as well.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 17:1–9 “It Is Good to Be Here”

Jesus is God—eternal, life-giving, and radiant with divine glory. In the Transfiguration, that glory shines through His humanity, assuring us that He is eternally one with God. Yet, Jesus does not cling to that glory. He sets His face toward Jerusalem: toward the religious authorities, toward imperial power, toward condemnation, suffering, and the cross. Jesus does not abandon His divinity, but He chooses the path of self-giving love. He takes up another kind of glory—the glory of mercy, solidarity, and salvation. We rejoice in the Transfiguration because it reveals both who Jesus is and how far He is willing to go for us. In Him we see that “He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8). *Jesus, thank You that Your glory and Your humility are for our healing and salvation. Amen.*

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:16–21 “Eyewitnesses of His Glory”

Peter looks back on his life of faith and remembers that he was an eyewitness to Jesus' glory on the mountain. Yet Peter does not tell the church to chase mountaintop experiences or dramatic visions. Instead, he points us to something more reliable and enduring: “the prophetic word more fully confirmed.” God has given us a lamp shining in the darkness—the living Word that guides us through uncertainty and fear. The Holy Spirit, who inspired the prophets and apostles, continues to work through this Word to call us to repentance, to trust, and to new life. Through water and the Word we are claimed as God's beloved children, and through the same Word we are sustained and kept in faith. *Faithful God, send Your Holy Spirit to ground us in Your Word, teaching us to trust not what dazzles our eyes, but what You have promised. Amen.*

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61:10–11 “Hidden in the Lord's Beauty”

We often think of forgiveness only as something taken away. God removes our sin, releases our guilt, and frees us from what binds us. This is true—and yet forgiveness is also something given. God clothes us with righteousness not our own: the life, love, and faithfulness of Christ. This garment—beautiful, radiant, and whole—is placed upon us, covering our brokenness and restoring our dignity. God shares divine beauty with us, not because we have earned it, but because love delights in giving. “My whole being rejoices in my God, for God has clothed me with garments of salvation and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness.” *We praise You, O God of grace! May our spirit rejoice always in you! Amen.*

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:25–27 “Soul Rest”

Rest for our bodies matters, but Jesus offers something deeper and more lasting. “Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest... and you will find rest for your souls.” Our souls are often exhausted from striving—trying to be good enough, faithful enough, worthy enough. We measure ourselves against impossible standards and carry the weight of fear and failure. But Jesus has already done the work. His life, death, and resurrection are God’s “yes” to us. When Jesus says, “It is finished,” He means that grace is complete. In His promise our hearts find peace and in His Gospel our souls finally find rest. *Christ of compassion, release us from what burdens us and teach us to live in the freedom of Your grace. Amen.*

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:5–6 “Light Up the Dark”

God has always been bringing light into places of deep darkness. At creation, God spoke light into being. In the wilderness, God led the people with a pillar of fire by night. Over Bethlehem, God set a star in the sky. And in the deepest darkness of all, God has shone light into our hearts through the face of Jesus Christ. We who have known fear, grief, and uncertainty have seen a great light. Jesus is the light of the world, and His light reveals the way of love, justice, and life with God. *Shine in our hearts, O God, and guide us by the gentle brightness of Christ. Amen.*

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 87 “A Hymn of Praise to the City of God”

It may seem unusual to sing praise to a city, but this is no ordinary city. This is God’s dwelling place—the community God gathers and sustains. “Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.” This city is God’s reign of justice and mercy, embodied in God’s people. We are the redeemed: freed from sin, liberated from death, delivered from despair, and welcomed into a new way of life. God claims us in baptism, names us as beloved, and holds us in a community of hope and peace that endures. *Holy God, we thank You for building Your Church and making us part of Your living, grace-filled community. Amen.*

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8 “The Humility and Glory of the Son of Man”

Psalm 8 takes on new depth when we recognize the “Son of Man” as Jesus. In His life and death, He was made vulnerable and lowly, sharing fully in human suffering. In His resurrection and exaltation, God honors Him with glory and life beyond death. During the upcoming season of Lent we will remember that Jesus enters into suffering before entering into glory, revealing a God whose power is made known through love and self-giving. Because of this, God’s name is honored throughout the earth—not as distant or domineering, but as gracious and near. As we prepare to gather in worship tomorrow we remember and give thanks for God’s nearness and presence today and everyday! *O God, our God, how wonderful is Your name in all the earth. Amen.*