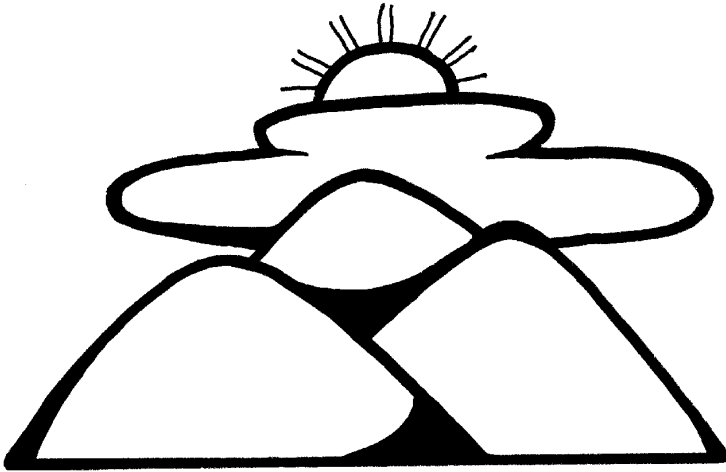




Sunday, February 15, 2026

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen

“He’s Been There All Along”



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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Trumpet Voluntary”

William Boyce

Announcements

Gathering Song

Cornerstone

Call to Worship

P: People of God, why are you here?

C: **We gather to worship with our hearts and our lives.**

P: People of God, who do you worship?

C: **We worship God, who loves us and teaches us to love.**

P: People of God, how do you worship?

C: **We worship God by breaking the bonds of injustice and freeing the oppressed.**

P: People of God, come, let us worship God, whose glory surrounds us!

C: **May our worship demonstrate God's glory in our neighborhood, community, and the whole earth.**

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

C: **And also with you.**

pass the peace as you feel comfortable

Song

By Faith

Remembrance of Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the Source of Life and Breath of love.

C: **Amen.**

P: During this season of Epiphany, we remember that God's light is not hidden. It shines for all people, drawing us in, calling us by name, and meeting us where we are. At the font, we remember who we are and whose we are.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: We give thanks for the gift of water—water that hovered over creation, water that set limits to chaos and carried a covenant of mercy, water that led people from bondage into freedom. In the river Jordan, you named Jesus as your beloved and sent your Spirit to rest upon him. In these same waters, you name us beloved too and claim us as your own.

C: **We are God's beloved. All that we have and all that we are belongs to God.**

- P: In these life giving waters, you promise that death does not win, that love endures, and that new beginnings are always possible. This water reminds us that we are held, guided, and never abandoned.
- C: **God's light goes before us. God's Spirit is the light given to us, and the light we see in others.**
- P: People of God, today we give thanks for the gift of baptism remember you were sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever— claimed in love, named for mercy, and sent for the sake of the world.
- C: **We remember our baptism. We trust the promise. We give thanks to God for all of it.**
- P: Let us pray. Holy God, shining light and flowing grace, renew us in your promise today and always. When the path ahead feels unclear, give us courage to take the next faithful step. When your light unsettles us, give us trust to follow where you lead. Send us out— beloved, claimed, and guided— ready to reflect your love in a world still learning how to see.
- C: **Amen**

Faith Mentor Blessing

Prayer of the Day

- P: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

please be seated

Lesson Exodus 24:12-18

Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

Gospel Response

- P: Word of God, Word of life.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Pastor Erik

Sermon

"He's Been There All Along"

Pastor Erik

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.



Special Music

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Alan Robert Petker

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: Liz, Bob, Lee, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Jerry, Melanie, Charles, Mark, Faizah, Chuck,
Sylvia, Bill, Marie, Mary, Carol, 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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Sending

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Jan Bender

Announcements

Ash Wednesday February 18

Ashes to Go - 7:00-8:30 am

Worship - 12:15 & 7:00 pm

(Lenten Devotions Available in the Gathering Place)

Midweek Lenten Worship

Please plan to join us Wednesdays at 7:00 pm throughout Lent as we take time over a 40-day period to prepare for Easter. Are you aware of the significance of the number 40 in the Bible?

- ♦ Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).
- ♦ Moses spending 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28).
- ♦ Elijah's 40-day journey to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8).
- ♦ The 40 days of rain during the Great Flood (Genesis 7:12).
- ♦ The Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert (Numbers 14:33)

What a perfect time to dig into the Bible!!!

Share the Story! - Assistant Teacher for Gloryland

If you want to share the stories in the Bible to our youngest disciples, we could sure use your help! 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. There's really nothing better than being the vessel that ignites the love of Jesus in someone's heart.

Weekly Activities

- SUNDAY, February 15
 - 11:00 am Fellowship Meeting
 - 4:00 pm Girl Scouts
 - 5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal
 - 5:00 pm Catechism/Youth

- MONDAY, February 16
 - 10:00 am Craft Group
 - 7:00 pm Sarah Circle

- TUESDAY, February 17
 - 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

- WEDNESDAY, February 18
 - 7:00 am Ashes to Go
 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study
 - 9:30 am WOW
 - 12:15 pm Ash Wednesday Worship
 - 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

- THURSDAY, February 19
 - 6:00 pm Lion Dance
 - 6:15 pm Girl Scouts

- SUNDAY, February 22
 - 9:00 am Christian Ed
 - 10:00 am Worship
 - 5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal
 - 5:00 pm Catechism/Youth

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: The Lord's Call to Follow Christ

As we approach Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, we hear again the call to “Return to the LORD, your God” (Joel 2:13b). Because the LORD “is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,” we trust God’s promise and return (Joel 2:13c). Like the blind person sitting by the roadside, we know that God’s mercy is revealed in Jesus, the Son of Man and Son of David, who was handed over to be mocked, flogged, and killed for us and for the sake of the world (Lk. 18:31–32). Baptized into Christ, we follow Him by dying daily to sin so that we might also rise with him to live by grace and in mercy.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:31–43 “Talking About Death and Resurrection Again”

Jesus sounds like a broken record. But it doesn’t matter—the disciples still don’t understand. They hear his words. They’ve heard them before. They could repeat them verbatim, yet they struggle to grasp them. Jesus is speaking about his Passion, which is pure Gospel and the forgiveness of sins. Without the Holy Spirit enlivening hearts, these words can be heard but not trusted. This doesn’t mean the disciples had no faith, but they didn’t yet understand the shape of Christ’s salvation. A blind beggar does. Unable to see with physical eyes, he “sees” more clearly than anyone else. Jesus is passing by, and Jesus saves. “Have mercy on me, Son of David,” he cries. And Jesus does. The beggar’s sight is restored, and he is saved by the grace of God through faith. *Lord, grant us the faith that trusts your mercy. Amen.*

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 26 “Walking in Integrity”

The path we walk with Christ is filled with temptations to wander away. The way of discipleship can, at times, feel lonely. The psalmist names those who sit in falsehood and practice injustice, all of whom would draw us away from God’s ways. Yet as we journey with Christ toward the fullness of life, Christ protects us and guides our steps. We walk forgiven, accompanied by the Spirit, and called into lives of justice, mercy, and peace. *O Lord, guide our feet to walk in your ways, trusting your grace when we stumble. Amen.*

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 “Love Is a Verb”

Our culture often reduces love to emotions, feelings, or shared interests. But love as revealed in God and shown to us in Christ Jesus is deeper and wider. Christ loved us “while we were still sinners” and reconciled us to God through his life, death, and resurrection (Rom. 5:8–10). Now he calls us to love one another as he has loved us (Jn. 13:34). Paul gives concrete examples: love acts and serves. Love is patient and kind, not self-seeking. Love rejoices in the truth and endures all things. This love flows from faith because Christ first loved us (1 Jn. 4:10). Christ’s love abides and never ends, even when our love falters. *O Lord, help us to love others as you have loved us. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:16–21 “Ash Wednesday”

Today marks the beginning of Lent, a season when Christians have often practiced fasting. Much of what it means to fast can be misunderstood or reduced to small sacrifices. The deeper question is, “Why fast at all?” Jesus commends fasting as a meaningful spiritual practice—not for show, but for renewal. Fasting can help us turn our attention back to God and remember that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God. We seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness, trusting that God provides what we need for body and soul. *O Lord, shape our lives so that nothing takes the place of your grace and mercy. Amen.*

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: John 12:23–36 “Wheat Must Die to Bear Fruit”

Throughout his ministry Jesus says, “My hour has not yet come.” But now his hour has arrived. This hour is the hour of the cross—his being lifted up for the sins of the whole world (v. 32). In this hour Jesus is glorified not in spite of the cross, but through it. This is what he has come to do for the life of the world. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Christ bears the fruit of forgiveness, life, and salvation. In baptism we are joined to his death and resurrection, so that dying to sin we may live in newness of life and bear fruits of faith. *Lord Jesus, draw us into your life, that we may trust your cross and resurrection. Amen.*

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:18–22 “Baptism Now Saves You”

Peter speaks boldly: “Baptism... now saves you” (v. 21). Baptism is not merely a human act or symbol. It is God’s promise at work—making us new creations in Christ. As Noah and his family were brought safely through the waters, so we are joined to Christ in the waters of baptism. There we are buried with Christ and raised to new life. Clothed in Christ’s righteousness, we are given a clean conscience and a living hope that endures today, tomorrow, and forever. *O Lord, when guilt or shame overwhelms us, remind us that we are baptized into Christ and held in your grace. Amen.*

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27 “Dwell in the House of the Lord”

Enemies surround the psalmist, yet their deepest desire is to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of their life. Why? Because God promises to be present with us. Christ meets us in Word and Sacrament—with forgiveness, life, and salvation. Gathered in worship, we are sustained by grace and formed into a community of hope. Nothing is more precious than dwelling in God’s presence, now and in the life to come. *Lord, gather us into your presence and fill us with joy in your house. Amen.*