



John Knox  
Presbyterian Church

January 18, 2026

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

"Morning Prayer"

Richard Blake

Words of Welcome

*The Peace of Christ be with you ... and also with you.*

Call to Worship

*God calls us here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.*

**We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes,  
our dreams and our fears.**

*Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.*

**Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present.**

*Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.*

**Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!**

\* Hymn

"Jesus Calls Us"

# 720

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Silent Prayer

\* Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of our baptismal waters,**

**You sent the Baptist to point to your Son.**

**But too often, we abandon his message and  
point only to ourselves.**

**We point to our worship preferences  
rather than the God we worship.**

**We point to our status rather than the grace  
that makes us all equal.**

**We point to our values rather than the One  
who has always valued everyone.**

**We point to our traditions rather than  
to the One who calls us to let go.**

\* = Standing as able    Italics = Leader    **Bold** = People

We point to our past rather than to the One  
who calls us into the future.  
Forgive us, Lord, for pointing in all the  
wrong directions.

God of our baptismal hope,  
Forgive us when we do not wait patiently  
for your direction.

Forgive us when we are too patient  
with our misdirection.

Hold our gaze on your baptismal promise  
sealed in the life, death, and resurrection  
of your Son.

Through the power of your Spirit, give us the  
courage to speak what we have seen and point  
to the One who takes away the sins of the world.  
In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

**\* Words of Assurance**

**\*Sung Response**                      “The Tide of God’s Great Mercy”                      Verses 1-2;  
see projection or music handout

## **LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**First Reading**                      Psalm 40:1-11                      NRSV

I waited patiently for the LORD;  
    he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He drew me up from the desolate pit,  
    out of the miry bog,  
    and set my feet upon a rock,  
    making my steps secure.  
He put a new song in my mouth,  
    a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear,  
    and put their trust in the LORD.  
Happy are those who make  
    the LORD their trust,  
    who do not turn to the proud,  
    to those who go astray after false gods.  
You have multiplied, O LORD my God,  
    your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
    none can compare with you.  
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
    they would be more than can be counted.  
Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,  
    but you have given me an open ear.  
Burnt offering and sin offering

you have not required.  
 Then I said, "Here I am;  
 in the scroll of the book it is written of me.  
 I delight to do your will, O my God;  
 your law is within my heart."  
 I have told the glad news of deliverance  
 in the great congregation;  
 see, I have not restrained my lips,  
 as you know, O LORD.  
 I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,  
 I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;  
 I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
 from the great congregation.  
 Do not, O LORD, withhold  
 your mercy from me;  
 let your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
 keep me safe forever.

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **Time with our Young and Growing**

#### **Gospel Reading**

John 1:29-42

NRSV

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

#### **Sermon**

Rev. Maggie Lewis

#### **\* Hymn**

"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

#721

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL**

### **Church and Community Life**

## Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“A Quiet Reflection”

R. Kevin Boesiger

\* Sung Response

“Freely, Freely”

see projection

\*Prayer of Dedication

## Prayers of the People

**Response:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

## The Lord’s Prayer

## SENDING GOD’S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

\* Sending Song

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

#2241

\* Charge and Blessing

*Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.*

Postlude

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ASH GROVE

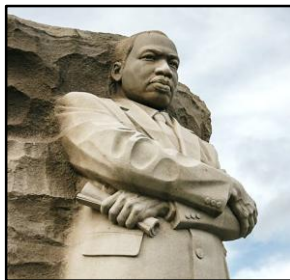
Arr. Jason W. Krug

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Liturgist: Eileen Sheelar  
Music Director: Anna Robinson

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis  
Pianist: Bethany Cozort

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**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King**

**January 15, 1929 –**

**April 4, 1968**

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

“I have decided to stick to love...Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

“Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.”

“Let no man pull you so low as to hate him.”

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

## Church and Community Life

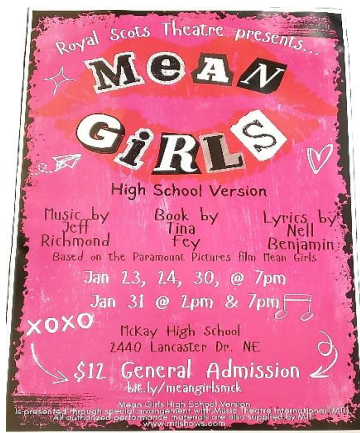
**A FOND FAREWELL** – Bethany has submitted her resignation as our pianist effective the end of this month. Jim’s company has closed and they will be focusing on decisions about their future. Bethany came to us in December 2012 as a temporary pianist and we invited her to stick around – and we’re so glad she did!

**JANUARY's BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** has been moved to next week because Maddy will be in town to celebrate her birthday with us! We will celebrate Maddy and Bethany's birthdays and bid Bethany farewell all at the same time.

**A NEW DIRECTORY** will be coming out in February. Please let Eileen know in person or by email or phone if your directory information has changed or if you'd like to update your picture.

**KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK** The most efficient way to help food banks at this time is to provide cash donations so they can make bulk food purchases of most-needed items. Designate "KCFB" or "Food Bank" and we will route the money to KCFB. You are always welcome to bring food to the cart any time. Volunteers are always needed to serve our hungry neighbors. See the KCFB Facebook page or website at [keizercommunityfoodbank.org](http://keizercommunityfoodbank.org) for more information, or contact Sheila or Teresa.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** after worship is a wonderful time to talk with friends and make new ones. It's even more pleasant with goodies in hand. Please see Joan to provide goodies, just bring some, or leave a free-will offering in the basket on the table so we can purchase refreshments when home-baked treats aren't available. Thank you!



**Royal Scots Theatre**  
presents **Mean Girls,**  
**High School version.**  
**Jan 23, 24, 30 @ 7 pm**  
**Jan 31 @ 2 pm & 7 pm**  
McKay High School 2440  
Lancaster Dr NE  
\$12 General Admission,  
[bit.ly/meangirlsmck](http://bit.ly/meangirlsmck)  
See Cariana if you have  
questions.

## Looking Ahead

**Jan. 12 7:00** Administration Committee via Zoom  
**Jan. 18 10:30** Worship – Christ Jar Offering  
**Jan. 19** Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday  
**Jan. 21 7:00** Session meeting via Zoom  
**Jan. 25 10:30** Worship – Birthday Celebration in social hall afterwards  
Including a farewell for Bethany

## January Birthdays

4	Bethany C.	28	Madison C.
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**Inserted in bulletins:**

## **A Statement in Memory of Renee Nicole Good**

*The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness laments the death  
of a mother shot by an ICE agent in Minnesota*

*The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness has released a statement on the death of Renee Nicole Good, a 37-year-old Presbyterian woman whose fatal shooting by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer last week in Minneapolis has sparked protests around the country. The statement mourns her death and affirms the right to "peaceful protest and lawful observation" without the threat of deadly government responses.*



*People gathered for a vigil in South Minneapolis following the fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good. (Photo by [Chad Davis](#) via Wikipedia Commons used under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license.)*

### **Remembering Renee Nicole Good**

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have  
loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life  
for one’s friends.” John 15: 12–13*

Jesus teaches that there is no greater love than the willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for others, to lay down one’s life for someone else. It is to offer oneself unselfishly for the sake of others, especially the defenseless and the vulnerable.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, Renee Nicole Good was shot while moving her car, attempting to follow the orders of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer. Her last words, captured on video, were, “I’m not mad at you.”

We lament and mourn the loss of Ms. Good, a widow of a veteran, a wife and a mother who put herself in harm’s way not out of any desire to do harm, but to observe and bear witness to the actions of ICE. We affirm the right to peaceful protest and lawful observation for all Americans, without the threat of repressive or deadly responses by government and law enforcement authorities.

Alongside Ms. Good, we remember George Floyd, whose life was taken at the hands of law enforcement in 2020, within one mile of where Ms. Good was murdered at the hands of



enforcement officers, a stark and enduring reminder of the deadly consequences of injustice and the unfinished work of truth, repentance, and transformation to which God continually calls us.

As Presbyterians, we hold a twofold connection to Renee Good. First, we are bound by our shared faith in a God of justice, who calls us to engage the powers of this world and to counter hate with love. Our tradition compels us to oppose injustice with a prophetic word from the Lord and to participate in the transformation of the world God loves.

Our second connection is more personal: Ms. Good was one of us. She was a fellow Presbyterian. Edgewater Presbyterian Church in Illinois remembered her with these words: “Renee Nicole Good lived out the conviction that every person deserves kindness, regardless of their background. ... Her story is a testament to the power of the Presbyterian mission and a challenge to our conscience. We mourn a fellow Presbyterian whose quiet smile and creative spirit touched lives from Colorado to Northern Ireland to Minnesota.”

In the coming week, we will remember the life and witness of the martyred Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who called this nation to a “radical revolution of values.” Values that demand divestment from racism, materialism and militarism. Ms. Good’s life and death echo this same moral call.

Her memory also stands in a sacred lineage of faithful witnesses who have risked and lost their lives in defense of human dignity. We remember the four Maryknoll Sisters — Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and Lay Missioner Jean Donovan — who were abducted, abused and murdered in El Salvador in 1980 for standing alongside the Salvadoran people.

We also remember the Rev. Elijah Lovejoy, who was murdered for his opposition to the evil of slavery and for whom the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy is named. These are not isolated tragedies but part of a continuing story of costly discipleship.

We must remember her name: Renee Nicole Good. We remember her as a testament to Jesus’ teaching that God does not change the world through violence but through faithful presence amid struggle, and that love refuses to abandon the work of acceptance, justice and compassion.

Ms. Good’s wife, Rebecca Good, offered a fitting memorial:

“On Wednesday, Jan. 7, we stopped to support our neighbors. We had whistles. They had guns. We were raising our son to believe that no matter where you come from or what you look like, all of us deserve compassion and kindness. Renee lived this belief every day. She is pure love. She is pure joy. She is pure sunshine. Renee was a Christian who knew that all religions teach the same essential truth: We are here to love each other, care for each other, and keep each other safe and whole.”

Through this remembrance, we rededicate ourselves to advocacy in the name of Christ Jesus. We stand with those who are detained or killed by ICE, treated unjustly and vilified, whom God defends as bearers of the divine image. We proclaim a God who values all people and who calls us again and again to remind the world to value the lives of all.

## The Rev. Jihyun Oh speaks out concerning US military action taken against Venezuela

Presbyterian News Service

published January 6, 2026

*But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ...” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” — Luke 2:10-11, 13-14, NRSVUE*

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is one among many Christian and Reformed traditions whose religious faith is grounded in the person of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we waited and proclaimed that Jesus Christ is coming, has come, and will come again, and we welcomed the one who calls us to follow him and join in God’s mission of wholeness, of peace and justice for the world God loves.

It is in this biblical and theological context and in the context of the policies of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) that we speak out against the violent military actions of the United States against Venezuela, especially the attack on Jan. 3, and join in solidarity with our partner, the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Venezuela (Presbyterian Church of Venezuela), and the people of Venezuela.

We affirm

- peace, justice, and fullness of life as God’s desire for all of God’s beloved Creation
- peacemaking as essential to our faith in God’s reconciling work in Jesus Christ, whose love and justice challenge evil and hatred, and whose call gives our church a mission to present alternatives to violence (2016)
- nonmilitary, collaborative international approaches as effective means of resolving conflict (2022).



The violent military actions of the U.S. against Venezuela run counter to these affirmations based on our religious convictions. Additionally, these actions violate international law and the rights of the Venezuelan people.

We do not overlook the serious political and human rights challenges facing Venezuela, nor do we endorse the current government. Yet history teaches that violence and external military intervention, especially when undertaken without clear restraint and accountability, deepen suffering rather than bring justice or peace.

Our church carries the memory of the Iraq War as a painful moral lesson. In reflecting on that war, the 216th General Assembly (2004), in [“Iraq: Our Responsibility and the Future,”](#) examined the invasion in light of just-war principles and conscience and warned against the grave human cost of wars launched on contested claims. Shaped by that reflection, we approach any justification for military escalation with humility and caution.



We are wary of fear-driven narratives and preemptive logic that rush toward violence and bypass international law. Remembering the lives lost and communities shattered, we call instead for careful verification, diplomacy, and a renewed commitment to peace and the protection of civilian life.

As people of faith, we are also concerned when the use of military force bypasses constitutional checks and congressional responsibility, weakening democratic accountability and public trust.

We believe the church bears witness to Christ when it nourishes the moral life of the nation for the sake of peace in our world and participates in seeking peace in all areas of life and society (1980). As such, we renounce violence as a means to further selfish, national interests, to procure wealth, or to dominate others (2022), and invite all those of goodwill to speak out against these U.S. actions and to speak up for the rights of Venezuelans to peace, justice, life and self-determination.

Fellow Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) disciples of Christ Jesus are called upon to be in solidarity with the Presbyterian Church in Venezuela and the people of Venezuela, to pray with them and for them in these difficult times, to recommit to participating in God's mission of wholeness in the world, to practice boldly the things that make for peace, and to nourish the moral life of our nation for the sake of God's peace.

One of the affirmations adopted by the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016) [to guide the peacemaking witness of the PC\(USA\)](#) is this: "We confess that we have sinned by participating in acts of violence, both structural and physical, or by our failure to respond to acts and threats of violence with ministries of justice, healing, and reconciliation."

We speak and act, not from a place of self-righteousness, but from a place of seeking to follow Christ more faithfully, recognizing that God's mission is also for Christ's church and our own formation into the cruciform shape of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

May we walk with our Venezuelan siblings and friends, as well as all those who are living in the shadow of violence and death, as they seek peace and wholeness. May our ministries of justice, healing, and reconciliation be a sign of God's just and loving reign for the world and for us.

But we believe that these times, so full of peril and tragedy for the human family, present a special call for obedience to our Lord, the Prince of Peace. The Spirit is calling us to life out of death.

The church must discern the signs of the times in the light of what the Spirit is revealing. We see signs of resurrection as the Spirit moves the churches to call for peace. We are at a turning point. We are faced with the decision either to serve the Rule of God or to side with the powers of death through our complacency and silence.

*Learn more about peacemaking [here](#). Read a declaration by the National Hispanic-Latino Presbyterian Caucus [here](#). Read a statement by the Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of Latin America (AIPRAL) [here](#).*

*The Rev. Jihyun Oh is Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Executive Director of the Unified Agency.*

*Source: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/1/5/rev-jihyun-oh-speaks-out-concerning-us-military-action-taken-against-venezuela>*

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*We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks. Copyrighted music is projected and recorded under One License #A-735693, CCL#3162413, or by permission of the author or publisher.*

*This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.*