

# And the Word BECAME FLESH

JOHN 1:14



## New Year, New You!

by Bethany Stabler

The beginning of a new year beckons us to reinvent ourselves. Like sirens from Greek mythology, television and social media advertisements try to lure us with glittery, flashy new ways to resolve to change our identity. Lose 20 pounds in January! The Ultimate 2026 Bucket List! 10 Tips to a Better You! Whether we need to change our eating habits, want to try new things, or have a laundry list of things we want to change about ourselves, our identities in Christ are unchanging— independent of the latest trends or our ever-expanding wishlists of self-improvement. While there is nothing wrong with making goals or resolutions, the cultural call to put our faith and hope in anything other than Christ is unbiblical.

The beginning of a new year should stir a desire in our hearts to start at the beginning of God's plan for us. How can we be sure of His plan and our identity in Him with all the glitz and flashy neon promises the world gives us? Start at the beginning.

**Genesis 1:1-4:** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

This truth is repeated in our scripture today:

**John 1:1-4:** <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

We have been created to look toward the true light of Jesus Christ, in whom all things are made new. Let us welcome in a new year and, in Christ, a new you.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:20

Welcome to Aldersgate Methodist Church of North Charleston. We're so happy that you are here!

Be thoughtful, be still, be reverent; for here we meet with a Holy God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

-If you have kiddos four or under, we offer an engaging and loving nursery so that you can get some personal time with God.

-Please silence your cellphones

## Doodle & Discern

"A place for your notes, drawings, and inspirations."

The Sanctuary is equipped with the **Sennheiser MobileConnect** assistive listening system. If you need help connecting your device, please reach out to Aaron Todd (Sound Tech)

1 - Download the app for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

2 - Connect to the MobileConnect WiFi network:  
Assisted Listening password:HearClearly!

3 - Open the app and choose a channel.

4 - Scan the QR code.

5 - The app will prompt you to connect your hearing devices and silence your ringer and notifications.

 **SENNHEISER**



The flowers on the altar are given by Maureen McCrorie to the glory of God and in loving memory of her mother, **Mary Ludlum**, on what would have been her 100th birthday today.



# Worship Service

Today's reader is Kristi Todd

## Gathering Music

Libby Hanson

## Chiming of the Trinity

## Opening Hymn

**FAIREST LORD JESUS**



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,  
2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,  
3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light,  
4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of all the na - tions!



O Thou of God and man the Son, Thee will I cher - ish,  
Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring; Je - sus is fair - er,  
And all the twink - ling star - ry host; Je - sus shines bright - er,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,



Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy and crown.  
Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.  
Je - sus shines pur - er Than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.  
praise, a - dor - a - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine.

## Call to Worship

*All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

## Welcome & Announcements

## Children's Moment

Bethany Stabler

We are offering a nursery service for children aged 4 and under during worship. Following the Children's Moment, your child may join Lori and Robin in the nursery, and parents can pick them up immediately after the service concludes.

# The Word of the Lord

## John 1:1-18 (ESV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Gloria Patri

**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.**

Sermon



**"The Word Became Flesh"**  
Pastor Kam Stabler

## The Word Among Us: A Glimpse into John 1:1-18

As we sit together in the pews this morning, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of one of the most profound and poetic passages in all of Holy Scripture. Often referred to as the "Prologue" of John's Gospel, these eighteen verses serve as a breathtaking overture to the entire story of Jesus Christ. They do not merely introduce a book; they invite us into a mystery.

John begins his account not with the earthly details of a manger, a star, or a census, but with the echoes of eternity. By intentionally mirroring the opening words of Genesis—"In the beginning"—he reminds us that before the world was formed or time was measured, the Word (the Logos) existed in perfect, loving relationship with God. This is far more than ancient history; it is the very foundation of our reality today. We worship a God who is neither distant nor silent, but a God who speaks, who creates, and who persistently brings light into the darkest, most shadowed corners of the human experience.

The climax of this passage—and perhaps the most startling claim in human history—is found in verse 14: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." The Creator entered His creation. The Infinite became an infant. This "Prologue" sets the theological stage for everything we believe about grace, truth, and our sacred identity as children of God.

Today, Pastor Kam leads us as we unpack the infinite depths of these verses. While this text is rich enough to study for a lifetime, there is a unique and transformative power in exploring it together as a church family. Let us listen this morning with open hearts and expectant minds, ready to see how the "Light of Men" continues to shine brightly in our lives, our homes, and our community.

## The Journey of the Magi: From Scripture to Legend

In the Gospel of Matthew, they are simply "wise men from the East." They have no names, no titles, and their number is never specified. However, over two millennia, tradition and folk myths have transformed these anonymous travelers into the legendary Three Kings.

### Names, Kingdoms, and Colors

The most enduring myth is that there were exactly three, likely derived from the three gifts mentioned: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. By the 8th century, they were given names representing the three known continents of the time: **Melchior** (Europe), **Caspar** (Asia), and **Balthazar** (Africa). This imagery beautifully reflects the Methodist belief that Christ's light is for the whole world.

### Folklore and "Chalking the Door"

The arrival of the Magi is celebrated on Epiphany (January 6th), marking the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. While the Bible is silent on the details of their journey, rich folk traditions have filled the gaps. One such tradition is "Chalking the Door." Families use blessed chalk to write a sequence above their home's entrance, such as:

20 + C + M + B + 25

The letters serve a dual purpose: they represent the traditional names of the kings, but they also stand for the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* ("May Christ bless this house").

From the legend of **La Befana**—the old woman searching for the Christ child—to the "Fourth Wise Man" who was late to the manger because he stopped to help the poor, these stories remind us that the journey toward Christ is a lifelong pursuit of grace. As we approach Epiphany, these traditions invite us to open our own doors to the "Light of the World."

## The Confession of Sin

*Leader: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.*

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Holy name, Amen.**

*Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!*

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

## Holy Communion

Donations for the Pastor's Benevolence Fund may be placed on the Communion Rail.

Members of the prayer ministry are at the sides of the altar if you would like someone to pray for you.

*Leader: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, once for all upon the cross.*

**All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

### Communion Music

Choir

### "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

by Emily Elizabeth Elliott & Timothy Richard Matthews

## Post Communion Prayer

**All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of Your Son, and heirs of Your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do the work You have given us to do, to love and serve You as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Him, to You, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever, Amen.**

## Apostles' Creed

*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.*

# Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

## Offering

Choir

## "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

by John Henry Hopkins Jr

## Doxology

*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.*

## The Lord's Prayer

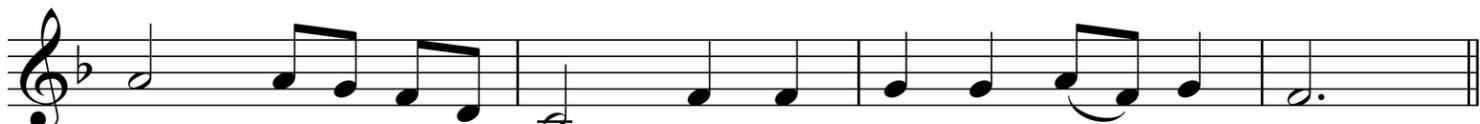
*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

## Closing Hymn

## GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O - ver the hills and eve - ry - where;



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, That Je - sus Christ is born.



1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, When lo! a - bove the earth  
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed the Sav - ior's birth.  
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

## Benediction

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

# You Call My Name

by Kay Lawhon

I struggle with remembering people's names. Even as I walk away after just being introduced, it sometimes occurs to me that I have already forgotten the person's name. And yet, I know names are important. If someone knows my name, it makes me feel good. Deep down, don't we all really like it when someone remembers our name?

Recently, our attention has been drawn to the different names of Jesus and God. Isaiah 9:6 provides a beautiful list of names for Jesus: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. There are others throughout the Old Testament, like Son of David, and in the New Testament Jesus gives us names for Himself through the "I Am" statements in the Gospel of John. And as you know, there are many, many more names for our Savior.

There are other names for God that may feel familiar: Yahweh, Elohim, Jehovah, and El-Shaddai. One of my favorites is given to us when God speaks to Moses from the burning bush. As He prepares Moses to rescue the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God says, "I AM WHO I AM... Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14).

I love this because the name "I AM" is hidden in plain sight throughout the entire Bible. In Revelation 1:8, the Lord God says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," signifying His eternal nature. When Jesus uses His "I Am" statements—calling Himself the Good Shepherd or the True Vine—He is subtly yet powerfully letting us know that He is the same God who spoke to Moses. He is the Great I AM.

There is a hymn titled "I Have Called You by Your Name" by Daniel Charles Damon. Its an older one, but the message is simple and beautiful:

*I have called you by your name, you are mine; I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true. You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.*

Isaiah 43:1 tells us: "I have called you by name; you are mine." If we feel loved and accepted by an acquaintance knowing our name, how much greater is it if God knows our name!

Does He know our given name? Does He calls us daughter or son, believer, Christian, follower, brother or sister? It doesn't matter. He knows who we are. And He is calling us by the name He has for us.

*Heavenly Father, it is comforting to know that You know our names.  
You know so well the problems we face and the needs that we have.  
Let us remember to call You by name also—with gratefulness and humility.  
We worship and praise You. You have called us by name, and we are Yours. Amen.*

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## Transforming Identities: Biblical Name Changes

Original Name	New Name	Meaning / Significance
Abram	Abraham	From "Exalted Father" to <b>"Father of a Multitude."</b> God redefined his future through a promise.
Sarai	Sarah	Changed to <b>"Princess."</b> She was no longer just a wife, but the mother of nations and kings.
Jacob	Israel	From "Supplanter/Heel-catcher" to <b>"Struggles with God."</b> This marked his transition from a deceiver to the father of a nation.
Simon	Peter	From a common name to <b>"The Rock."</b> Jesus spoke to the solid foundation He would build upon Simon's faith.
Saul	Paul	Derived from the Latin for "Small." It reflects his humility and his new mission as the Apostle to the Gentiles.

*A Note for the New Year: Just as God renamed these individuals to reflect their new calling, He does the same for us today. We may walk into a new year carrying old labels—"addict," "failure," or "forgotten"—but in Christ, He gives us names like "Redeemed," "Friend," and "Beloved."*

# BIRTHDAYS

1/5 Ruby H Hannah  
 1/8 Frank Albach  
 1/10 Michael Pfaehler  
 1/14 Terri Keller  
 1/15 David Marek  
 1/18 Sydney Mellard  
 1/30 McKinlee Lowe

# ANNIVERSARIES

If we left out your birthday or anniversary, please let us know:  
[office@aldersgateremount.org](mailto:office@aldersgateremount.org)

# THIS WEEK

## MONDAY 5

To-Go Soup Kitchen 10:30 AM  
 Youth Group 6:00 PM

## TUESDAY 6

Prayer Meeting 10:00 AM  
 Council Meeting 6:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY 7

HCM Food Bank 10:00 AM  
 Clothes Closet 10:30 AM  
 Choir Practice 6:00 PM

## THURSDAY 8

To-Go Soup Kitchen 10:30 AM

## SUNDAY 11

Sunday School 9:00 AM  
 Worship Service 10:00 AM

# LAST SUNDAY

## ATTENDANCE:

In-person	88
Sunday School	47
Giving Needed	\$ 464,203.00
Giving Received	\$ 465,698.59



Did you know that you can give tithes and offerings online?  
 Go to [onrealm.org/AldersgateRemount](http://onrealm.org/AldersgateRemount) or scan the QR Code

Aldersgate Methodist Church of North Charleston is a member of the Global Methodist Church of SC. The mission of the GMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.



# NEWS & UPDATES

## WOA MEETING

The Women of Aldersgate will meet on **Saturday, January 10, at 11:00 AM** in the Social Hall. Our focus for the upcoming year is Women of the Bible, with a special emphasis on the power of prayer.

Join us as we explore the **"Who, What, Where, and Why"** behind the most inspirational prayers offered by women in the Old Testament. As always, a light luncheon will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

## 2026 FLOWER CALENDAR

The flower calendar for 2026 is now available. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one, please contact the Church Office with your preferred date and dedication information. You may stop by the office Monday through Thursday between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., call us at (843) 744-0283, or email [office@aldersgateremount.org](mailto:office@aldersgateremount.org) to secure your Sunday.

If you would like to repeat the same date you held last year, please let us know and we will make every effort to accommodate your request. Flower arrangements are \$40, and the church will handle the ordering and placement of the flowers on the altar for you.

## CLASS MEETING STUDY

You are invited to join us as we delve into the structure and contribution of one the pillars of the early Methodist movement, The Class Meeting.

The Class Meeting was not an academic class relying on curriculum, books or lectures. Rather, it consisted of a small group of Methodists who met weekly to share their experience of God, support one another in love, and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Beginning on **January 15, 2026**, we are excited to offer an 8-week study of the book **"The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience"** by Kevin M. Watson.

After the 8 weeks, participants will have the option to continue meeting in a small group modeled on the principles studied in the book.

For further information, contact Gary Blunkall at [garyblunkall@gmail.com](mailto:garyblunkall@gmail.com) or (314) 478-7669 or Kathy Blunkall at [kblunkall@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kblunkall@sbcglobal.net) or (314) 606-4820.

## JESUS BIRTHDAY GIFT

What do you give the King who has everything?  
 Join our Christmas Challenge!

We invite you to match 50% of your gift budget as a donation marked "JESUS BIRTHDAY GIFT."

All proceeds will support Holy City Missions.

You can give now through early January.  
 Let's celebrate His birth by serving His people!

# PRAYER LIST

Betty Black  
 Edith Black (friend of Joe Hamer)  
 Betty Dawsey  
 Family of Myrtle Cobb  
 Rocky Cox  
 Hoy Fisher  
 Joan Fried  
 Patsy Ganis  
 Woody Ganis  
 Jimmie Gore  
 Joe Hamer  
 Ernest Hoenck  
 Jeri Jackson  
 Shawn Jacques  
 Frances Jenkins  
 Eunice Longsine  
 Carol Massey  
 Ben McBride  
 Mike & Theresa Meynardie  
 Kathy Mobley  
 Scott Myers (Bethany's father)  
 Karen Peacock (Julie's mother)  
 Family of Luke Poole  
 Joanne Ragge  
 Debbie Rayeski  
 Bette Renaud  
 Family of Michael Sams  
 Robert Seabrook  
 Sue Shipman  
 Frances Thompson  
 Joseph Tracy  
 Randy Ward  
 Jenny and Michael Worrell

# STAFF

PASTOR	KAM STABLER
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	SARA K. STORY
ASST.DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	RAMIRO ALLENDE
MUSICIAN/ACCOMPANIST	LIBBY HANSON
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	LORI SILVIS
TECH TEAM DIRECTOR	AARON TODD
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	FRANK ALBACH
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	CATHY WRIGHT
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	KAY LAWHON
NURSERY/CUSTODIAN	ROBIN SPEIGHTS

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