

Third Sunday after the Epiphany – Ecumenical Sunday – Ozoni
January 25, 2026 – 10:30A

Order of Worship

The Community Gathers

Lighting of Altar Candles

Prelude – *Instrumental*

A Word of Greeting/Centering Words –

Rev. Allison Mark

Today and every day, Jesus says, “Come, Follow me.” Today and everyday, let us answer, “You, Lord Jesus, are the one we seek.”

Opening Hymn – *Savior, Like a shepherd, Lead Us UMH#318*

Giving God Glory As We Come to Worship

Call to Worship – (L: Leader, P: People)

Gilbert Vinluan

L: Friends of God, today Jesus calls to each of us, “Come! Follow me!”

P: The kingdom of heaven has come near.

L: Some say, “But we are walking in darkness.”

P: In Christ, we have seen God's light. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

L: Some day, “But divisions tear us apart.”

P: In Christ we are united in mind and purpose. The kingdom of heaven has come near.

L: Friends of God, today we gather to worship God and to follow Jesus.

P: The kingdom of heaven has come near.

Opening Prayer –

Gilbert Vinluan

Inviting God, help us to hear Jesus calling us and help us to follow him. In Christ, your kingdom draws near to us, whether we are seeking it or not. When we are caught up in our anguish, you shine a great light in our darkness. When we face days full of trouble, you shelter us. When we are at odds with others, quarreling and breaking apart into factions, you save us with the unity won by Christ through the cross and his resurrection. Whether we face danger or are at ease in our routines – the kingdom of heaven draws near and Jesus says: “*Now is the time to follow me.*” You hear us, God, when we cry out to you. May we hear you this day when you cry out to us. Amen.

A Message to the Children (In Us All) –

Rev. Allison Mark

The Word of God for the People of God

Congregational Hymn – *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, UMH#206, v.1,3*

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 4:12-23, Isaiah 9:1-4

12 Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. **13** He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. **14** This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

15 *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,
16 the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light,
and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in shadow of death.* [a]

17 From that time Jesus began to announce, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!"

18 As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. **19** "Come, follow me," he said, "and I'll show you how to fish for people." **20** Right away, they left their nets and followed him. **21** Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and **22** immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

23 Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people. Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later he glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations. [b]

2 [c] The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

3 You have made the nation great;
you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,
as those who divide plunder rejoice.

4 As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,
the staff on their shoulders,
and the rod of their oppressor.

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L: The word of God for all People.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music – *How Beautiful, violin duet*

Kathy Miya, Miae Nomiya

Sermon – *When the Light Finds You*

Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

Pastoral Prayer – Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Allison Mark

We Respond to God’s Grace

Offering our Gifts –

Rev. Allison Mark

Doxology – *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow, UMH#95*

Prayer of Dedication –

Gilbert Vinluan

Generous God, you have blessed us with your call to follow Jesus. In return, we rejoice as we give our offering and gifts. May they be used for the work of proclaiming the good news that the kingdom of heaven come near. Amen.

Going Forth in God’s Holy Name

Faith in Action – The Ministry of Faith UMC

Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

Closing Hymn – *Trust and Obey, UMH#467, v.1,4*

Commission and Blessings

Minister ‘Ainise Isama’u

Passing of the Peace – Postlude