



# Northwest Presbyterian Church

## Service of Worship

Making Disciples • Making Friends • Making a Difference

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

10:30AM

**PRELUDE**

*"Love Divine All Loves Excelling"*

arr. Joel Raney

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dr. Alex Moses

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 27, and 27C in Psalms for All Seasons*)

Hal Gill

*One:* The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**All Sing:** O Lord, you are my light and my salvation near:  
then who will cause me fright or fill my heart with fear?  
While God my strength, my life sustains,  
secure from fear my soul remains,  
secure from fear my soul remains.

*One:* One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

**All Sing:** When troubles round me swell,  
when fears and dangers throng,  
securely I will dwell in his pavilion strong.  
Within the shelter of God's tent  
he hides me till the storm is spent,  
he hides me till the storm is spent.

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE 39**

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

\* **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

*One:* The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

*You are invited to share words and signs of greeting and reconciliation.*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 5:38-48; 7:1-5

Pew Bible, pg. 5 NT

*One:* The Word of the Lord.

*All:* Thanks be to God.

**TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Rev. Dr. Alex Moses

\* **HYMN** (*SEE INSERT*)

*“God, Your Gift of Peace Is Precious”*

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SERMON**

The Sermon on the Mount  
When We Disagree

Rev. Dr. Alex Moses

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from Romans 12*)

On the basis of God's mercy...

Let love be genuine;

hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good;

love one another with mutual affection;

outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope; be patient in suffering; persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of others;

pursue hospitality to strangers.

Be a blessing rather than a curse to people who disagree with you.

Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another;

do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly;

do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,  
but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.  
And so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with everyone.

## **PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

### **OFFERTORY**

*"There is an Everlasting Kindness"*

Larry Shackley

### \* **SUNG RESPONSE**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

### \* **HYMN OF SERVICE 300**

*"We Are One in the Spirit"*

### \* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

### **POSTLUDE**

*"Prelude in F"*

arr. Gordon Young

*The benediction concludes our worship service. During the music of the postlude,  
please feel free to leave the sanctuary, talk to those around you, or stay and listen to the music, as you choose.*

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\* Please stand as you are able.

*The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God  
and in honor of the Soteris January Birthdays - Jim, Nancy, Steve, Will, and Bryleigh Burnett;  
and in memory of Nancy's brother Mike Crawford.*

## Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, **we welcome you to Northwest**, with the hope that this service of worship will be for you an experience of real communion with God and God's children. If you have not found a church home in Atlanta, we hope you will consider joining with us in worship, study, fellowship, and service. There is a place for you here in which you can both give and receive. ***Come join us!***

### The Ministers

All of the Members of the Northwest Presbyterian Congregation

### The Session

#### Class of 2026

Jason Amos, *E*  
Betty Bates, *Ca*  
Craig Camp, *M*  
Brian Moye, *C*

*C=Connections*  
*W=Worship*

#### Class of 2027

Laura Blackburn, *E*  
Cathy Ealick, *M*  
Harriett Kelly, *W*  
Rob Rankin, *W*

*E=Education*  
*Ca=Congregational Care*

#### Class of 2028

Carroll Harris, *S*  
Curt Thompson, *C*  
Jeff Upchurch, *W*  
Anneke Woodward, *S*

*S=Stewardship*  
*M=Mission*

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Alex Moses  
Clerk: Ezra Jones  
Treasurer: Karen Taylor

### The Staff

Rev. Dr. Alex Moses, Pastor  
Rev. A.J. Shortley, Director of Youth & Mission  
Dr. Clinton Smith, Director of Music & Organist  
Scott Mize, Director of Operations

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# Northwest Presbyterian Church

January 25, 2026

## Weekly Schedule of Events

### Sunday School—9:00am

Adult Bible Study—In the Session Room

Children's Morning Fellowship—Children's Building Room 2 for crafts, games & music.

### Sunday Worship—10:30am

In person & on YouTube.

### Book Discussion Lunch—after Worship

Join us in Thorington Hall.

### Northwest Youth—Snow Tubing & Lock-In

Lunch, Fun, Spiritual Formation. Contact AJ for more details.

### Choir Rehearsal after Worship

### Women's Bible Study—Wednesday at 9:30am

Meeting in the Conference Room and on Zoom.

### Men's Bible Study—Wednesday at 10:00am

Meeting in the Youth Lodge and on Zoom.

## Prayers

### For those in need of healing:

Mary Anne Matthews  
Laura Blackburn  
Sean Amos  
Nola Hawkinson  
Jeff Upchurch  
Anna Purser  
Lisa Campbell Taylor

Hugh Campbell  
Prue Waters  
John Bagwell  
Darlene Kerscher  
Jamie Kaplin  
Mike Farria  
Kathy Taulman Vaughan  
Dee Dee Teel

### For those in need of strength:

The people of Palestine & Israel  
The people of Ukraine  
Rev. Gamble & This Child Here  
The Rev. Farouk Hammo &  
Baghdad Presbyterian Church

*If you would like to place a name on the prayer list, we invite you to contact the church office at [admin@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:admin@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org) or call 404-237-5539.*

*If you have already shared a prayer request, we kindly ask that you keep us informed with any updates by reaching out to Lynne Schlosberg at [lynnesc@comcast.net](mailto:lynnesc@comcast.net) or by contacting the church office.*

## January Birthdays

20th Peggy Saucier  
Steve Soteres  
25th Finn McCabe  
26th Bruce Logue  
28th Nancy Soteres  
30th Frank Brown

## February Birthdays

1st Paul Sanders  
2nd Dan Fondell  
16th Connor Amos  
18th Tobi Williams  
20th Charles Sergan  
Miyoko Thompson  
22nd Alex Bayer  
28th Steve Forbes

## Be A Greeter



Be the first to say hello to friends and greet visitors arriving for worship. Greeters play an important part in welcoming newcomers and helping them get to where they need to be. Reserve your spot on SignUp Genius using the QR Code. For more information contact a member

of the Worship Team: Harriett Kelly, Rob Rankin, or Jeff Upchurch.

## Sanctuary Flowers

Celebrate a birthday, wedding, anniversary, memorial, or any special occasion with a beautiful gift of flowers. Each week offers an opportunity to give thanks or remember someone dear by adorning our worship space with a floral dedication. To reserve your dedication, please call 404-237-5539 or email [admin@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:admin@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org).

Scan this QR code with your cellphone to access our eGiving page or visit <https://tinyurl.com/4dbm2kp3>.



## Northwest Youth

**January 24-25:** Fair & Snow Tubing then Lock In!

**February 1:** Regular Youth Fellowship

**February 8:** Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch

An up-to-date schedule of activities is always available at [www.northwestpresbyterianchurch.org/northwest-youth](http://www.northwestpresbyterianchurch.org/northwest-youth).  
Contact AJ at [aj@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:aj@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org)

## Upcoming Northwest Events

**January 25:** Book Discussion Lunch after worship.

**February 1:** Book Discussion Lunch after worship.

**February 8:** Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch after worship.

**February 15:** After Church Refreshments.  
Session meeting.

**February 18:** Ash Wednesday in the Adams Room.  
Dinner at 6:00pm  
Service at 6:45pm

**February 22:** Lenten Breakfast & Sunday School.  
Congregational meeting after worship.

**March 1:** Lenten Breakfast & Sunday School.  
Cooking meals for Bashor Shelter after worship.

**March 8:** Lenten Breakfast & Sunday School.  
Atlanta Hunger Walk.

## Children's Ministry

### Nursery Childcare

Nursery care is provided in Room 1 of the Children's Building, and is available from 9:00-11:45am, or at the conclusion of any after-church event. Children who are newborn through age 4 are welcome. Parents, please bring diapers, a change of clothes, and any medications or other needed items. Please do not bring food containing nuts.

### Children's Morning Fellowship

9:00am in Room 2 of the Children's Building. Children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade are invited to join Marina Greiner for a time of fun, games, crafts, etc. during the Adult Sunday School hour.

### Young Children & Worship

Following the Time with Young Disciples during worship, children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to follow Marina Greiner and an adult volunteer\* upstairs to the Upper Room above the Narthex. Children will engage in a simplified and age-appropriate order of worship that includes liturgical greetings, songs of praise, and a sensorimotor style of storytelling that follows the Bible passages of the church year calendar. On communion Sundays, children will rejoin their parents for the communion portion of the service. Other Sundays, please pick up your children upstairs after the service.

\*Adult volunteers needed. If interested, please contact Laura Blackburn or Maryam Sanders.

**Submit Announcements to [admin@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org](mailto:admin@northwestpresbyterianchurch.org)**

\*Submissions are due by noon on Thursday the week before publication of the newsletters.  
Submissions received after the deadline will be included in the following week's publications.

## 52 Club - Support Northwest Youth Mission

Please support the mission outreach of the Northwest Youth by donating \$1 per week, or \$52 annually, designated for the "52 Club." Even with this small individual amount, if everyone contributes our youth can do amazing things in our community!

## Northwest Mission Projects

**Souper Bowl of Caring** - From January 18 to February 8 we are collecting the following items needed to fight hunger in Metro-Atlanta. We will enjoy our Souper Bowl Day of Caring lunch together after worship on February 8.

- Peanut Butter & Jelly (Plastic jars only)
- Canned Meats (Tuna, chicken, ham, or beef stew)
- Hearty Soups & Chilis (Chunky or protein-rich styles)
- Boxed Dinners (Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, or Pasta Roni)
- Canned Vegetables (Corn, green beans, and peas)
- Canned Beans (Black, kidney, or baked beans)
- Rice & Pasta (1lb bags/boxes)
- Canned Tomato Products (Diced tomatoes or pasta sauce—no glass)
- Crackers (Saltines or Ritz)

***Please avoid donating glass items to avoid breakage, and remember to check expiration dates. Thank you!***

## Adult Spiritual Formation Groups

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

We gather at 9:00am in the Session Room of the Family Life Center and via Zoom. The group has thought provoking discussions about the weekly Bible passage from the PC(USA)'s Feasting on the Word curriculum. Coffee and donuts provided. The Zoom link is in the email newsletter.

*If you have questions about the class, please contact Pastor Alex.*

### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 9:30am in the office conference room and on Zoom. Our current study is **The Acts** using the LifeChange (Navigators) series on The Acts available at

<https://tinyurl.com/4u4rwww9>.

All women are welcome.

### Men's Bible Study

The Men of Northwest will meet on Wednesdays at 10am in the Youth Lodge and on Zoom. We engage in rich discussion that revolves around the Bible, spirituality, and contemporary life.

## Annual Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, February 8**, and join us in Thorington Hall for a delightful congregational lunch. We invite everyone to bring their favorite game day appetizer or soup recipe to share.

**Sign-Up:** Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the round table in the Narthex.

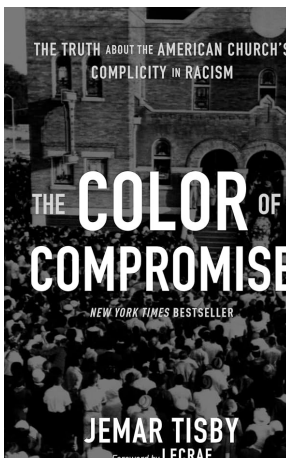
**Portion Size:** To ensure everyone has plenty to enjoy, please prepare enough for 8-12 people.

**Provided:** The Mission team will supply drinks and dessert. *Please bring your soup in a warm crock pot before worship. Power strips will be available on the serving tables for your convenience.*

***We look forward to sharing a wonderful meal together!***

## Book Discussion Lunches

In connection to Martin Luther King day this month, Alex will lead a 3 week series of discussions of the book "The Color of Compromise" by Jemar Tisby. We will meet for a simple lunch in Thorington Hall after church on January 18, January 25, and February 1. Participants will need to purchase the book and keep up with readings in order to engage in the discussions. Also, please be prepared to make a \$5-10 contribution each week to cover the lunch. You may purchase the book ahead of time on Amazon, Ebay, Thriftbooks, or wherever you prefer. The first week we will discuss the first 4 chapters.



The Color of Compromise details the church's role in racism in America from colonial slavery, through the Civil War and Jim Crow era, and on through the Civil Rights period and even our modern social/political context. Jemar Tisby, with incredibly thorough research, historical accuracy, and insight, discusses not only what the church has done through the years, but also why. As you can tell by the title of the book, Tisby makes a clear point that in regards to racism (as

well as numerous other issues), the church and Christians compromise the gospel and the way of Jesus due to the influence of the social and political forces of the day. He does not intend it to be a political book, but does discuss in detail the times that the church, or Christians, have aligned themselves with politicians and policies that had/have clear racial implications. Tisby is also upfront that it will be a challenging read for many, and Alex notes that he will steer the group away from arguments or agendas. However, Tisby does believe that like surgery, truth telling can be uncomfortable and even painful, but also healing and transforming – for us as individuals, for us as a church, and for society.

***Please sign up on the table in the narthex, and see Alex if you have questions.***

## Jazz Sunday - March 8

***Invite your friends and neighbors!***

*"If jazz is spiritual, it does not lift us off the ground, detaching us from the hard realities of life. The music's spiritual power is a holy animation in the thick of real life."*

(from *Thriving on a Riff* by William Carter)

Jazz can actually teach us a lot about life and faith – it gives lessons in working together collaboratively, listening to the other musicians, being flexible, expressing our God-given personalities and talents, and so much more.

Come and enjoy a fun service of music before our Souper Bowl of Caring lunch.

## "There Is an Everlasting Kindness"

arr. Larry Shackley

There is an everlasting kindness  
You lavished on us  
When the Radiance of heaven  
Came to rescue the lost;  
You called the sheep without a shepherd  
To leave their distress  
For your streams of forgiveness  
And the shade of Your rest.  
And with compassion for the hurting,  
You reached out Your hand  
As the lame ran to meet You  
And the dead breathed again;  
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow  
And shared in our tears,  
Heard the sigh of the weary,  
Let the children draw near.

What boundless love,  
What fathomless grace  
You have shown us, O God of compassion!  
Each day we live  
An offering of praise  
As we show to the world Your compassion.

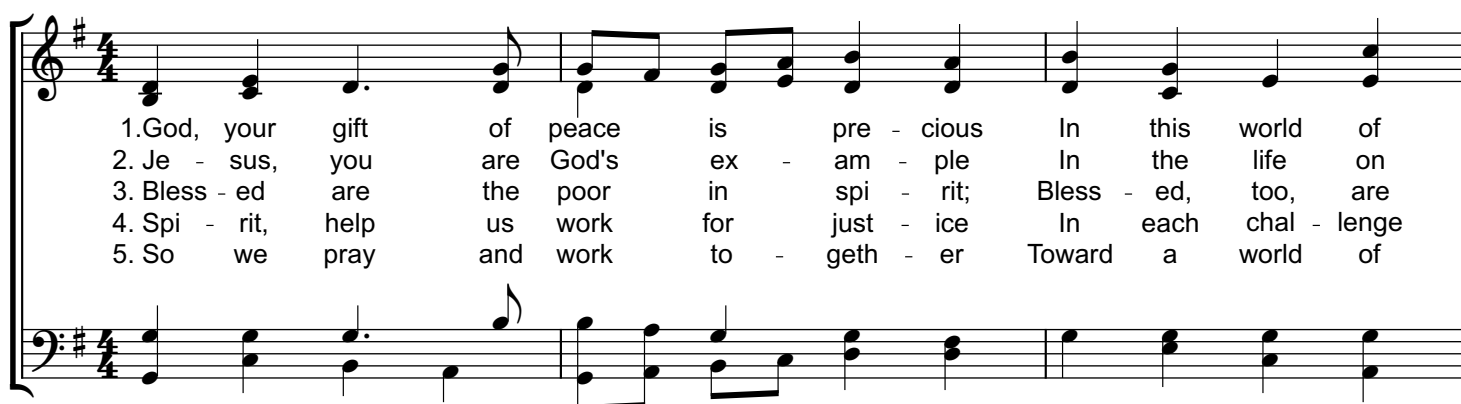
We stood beneath the cross of Calvary  
And gazed on Your face  
At the thorns of oppression  
And the wounds of disgrace,  
For surely You have borne our suffering  
And carried our grief  
As You pardoned the scoffer  
And showed grace to the thief.

How beautiful the feet that carry  
This gospel of peace  
To the fields of injustice  
And the valleys of need—  
To be a voice of hope and healing,  
To answer the cries  
Of the hungry and helpless  
With the mercy of Christ.

# God, Your Gift of Peace is Precious

TEXT: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

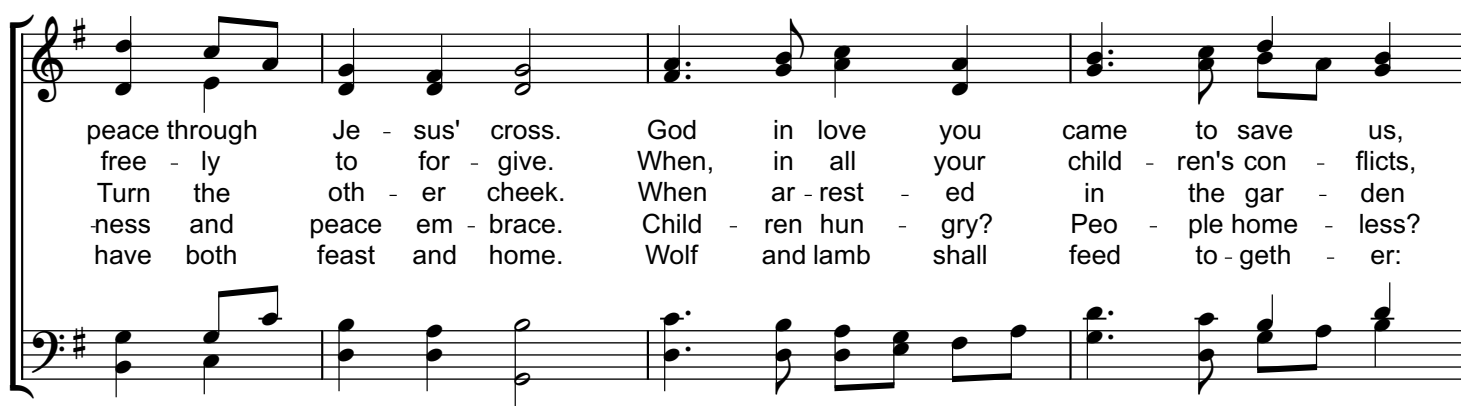
CWM RHONDDA



1. God, your gift of peace is pre - cious In this world of  
2. Je - sus, you are God's ex - am - ple In the life on  
3. Bless - ed are the poor in spi - rit; Bless - ed, too, are  
4. Spi - rit, help us work for just - ice In each chal - lenge  
5. So we pray and work to - geth - er Toward a world of



sin and loss: You have gi - ven joy and glad - ness, Mak - ing  
earth you lived Help us see your face in oth - ers, Teach us  
all the meek. When we feel a slap of hat - red, You say:  
that we face. Each one needs to have the oth - er: Right - eous -  
your sha - lom. May all peo - ple share your boun - ty, And all



peace through Je - sus' cross. God in love you came to save us,  
free - ly to for - give. When, in all your child - ren's con - flicts,  
Turn the oth - er cheek. When ar - rest - ed in the gar - den  
-ness and peace em - brace. Child - ren hun - gry? Peo - ple home - less?  
have both feast and home. Wolf and lamb shall feed to - geth - er:



Giv - ing free - dom from our sin - In you, gifts of peace be - gin.  
Hate and vi - o - lence in - crease - Blest are those who work for peace.  
You spoke to your friend to say, "Pe - ter, put your sword a - way."  
Mis - siles fly - ing through the air? You seek peace with just - ice there.  
In your king - dom war shall cease, And your peo - ple live in peace.