

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Liturgy for the Celebration of Worship

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 18, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Liturgist: **Bobby Higham**

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*

## WELCOME

*The chimes call us to a time of worship*

## Greeting

Liturgist

## Prelude

*"My Tribute"* - Andre Crouch/Smith

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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## Introit

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Holy One,

**Congregation:** **who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: As we have gathered here to worship,  
let us stand and greet one another in the  
love of Christ.

(Please stand.)

## \* Gathering Song

## *“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”*

## Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

*Louise Ruspini; alt.*

Ps. 100

## **\*Call to Worship**

# Liturgist

One: Sing a new song,  
All: a song of thanks and praise,  
One: for God has done wondrous deeds,  
All: and is great beyond compare!

# \*Opening Hymn

## *“Arise, Your Light Is Come” #231*

(words and music on the following page)

# Arise, Your Light Is Come! 231

N.C. A D A D A E/B B7 E

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show  
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -  
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind  
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.  
 up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (1947-)  
 MUSIC: William H. Walter (1825-1893)  
 Words © 1992 GIA Publications

FESTAL SONG  
 S.M.

## \*Opening Prayer

Liturgist

Holy God, you sent your son to be the light of the world, so that all may know the brightness of your love. Fill us with your grace this day that we too may bear witness to his light and serve your coming reign. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# **Anthem**

*“Total Praise”* - Smallwood/Raney

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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## **A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US**

### **Children’s Message**

Wendy Brown

## **WE LIFT OUR PRAISE**

## **& PRAYER TO GOD**

**Naming our Prayers before God**

**Moments of Silent Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer w/ Lord’s Prayer (using debts/debtors)**

## **HEARING GOD’S WORD FOR THE DAY**

### **Scripture Lessons**

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

<sup>4</sup> But I said, 'I have labored in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,  
and my reward with my God.'

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says,  
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
'Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

## \*Hymn of Preparation

"Wise Men, They Came to Look for Wisdom" vs. 1-2 #234  
(words and music on the following page)

## 234 Wise Men, They Came to Look for Wisdom

Gm      D  
 F#      Gm      Dm  
 F      E<sub>b</sub>      Adim  
 C      D      B<sub>b</sub>  
 Cm      D      Gm  
 B<sub>b</sub>

1 Wise men, they came to look for wis-dom, find-ing one wis - er  
 2 Pil-grims they were, from un-known coun-tries, search-ing for one who  
 3 Ma - gi, they stooped to see your splen-dor, led by a star to  
 4 Guests of their God, they o - pened treas-ures, in-cense and gold and

Cm      D      G      D  
 F#      Gm      Dm  
 F      E<sub>b</sub>      Adim  
 C      D

than they knew; rich men, they met with one yet rich - er—  
 knows the world; lost are their names and strange their jour - neys,  
 light su - preme; prom-ised Mes - si - ah, Lord e - ter - nal,  
 sol - emn myrrh; wel - com - ing one too young to ques - tion

B<sub>b</sub>      Cm      D      Gm  
 B<sub>b</sub>      Cm      D      Gm      D      Gm      F      B<sub>b</sub>  
 B<sub>b</sub>

King of the kings, they knelt to you: Je - sus, our wis - dom  
 famed is their zeal to find the child: Je - sus, in you the  
 glo - ry and peace are in your name: Joy of each day, our  
 how came these gifts, and what they were: Gift be - yond price of

Cm7  
 Eb      F      B<sub>b</sub>  
 F      Gm      D      Eb      Am7(b5)  
 C      D      Gm

from a - bove, wealth and re - demp - tion, life and love.  
 lost are claimed, a - liens are found and known and named.  
 song by night, shine on our path your ho - ly light.  
 gold or gem, make a - mong us your Beth - le - hem.

## Gospel Lesson: John 1:29-42

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' <sup>32</sup>And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup>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." <sup>34</sup>And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' <sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>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?' <sup>39</sup>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. <sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup>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).

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

## Sermon

*"Gifts That Keep on Giving: The Gift of Unbridled Curiosity"*  
- Rev. Daniel Doty

# THE OFFERING

## Invitation to the Offering

GIVE ONLINE HERE



## Offertory

*“The Gift of Love”* - English Folk Song/Linker

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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(Please stand.)

## \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

We give you thanks, O loving God, that you have placed in the hearts of your faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to do your will. Use these gifts to proclaim good news to every nation and restore all people to Christ. Amen.

# WE ARE SENT BY GOD TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

## \*Closing Hymn

*“Wise Men, They Came to Look for Wisdom”* vs. 3-4 #234  
(words and music on page 6)

## \*Benediction

## \*Congregation Response

**“Go now in peace, never be afraid  
God will go with you, each hour of every day.  
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.”**

Go Now in Peace—Besig, © Harold Flammer Music, A division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

## Postlude

*“Musique Royale”* - Delalande/Wolff  
Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson  
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## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team:	Vince Scovern, Anne Pertick, Ann Hagan
Liturgist:	Bobby Higham
Ushers:	Dave Marconi, Jane Charles, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Greeters:	Mark and Cathleen Clark

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**Today's Altar Flowers are provided by:**

Bonnie Fordham    "In loving remembrance of Larry."

**A WORD OF THANKS**—Thanks is such a small word when it comes to expressing our appreciation to all the kitchen help that was provided for John's memorial dinner. Many of you have served together on committees, boards, or just being his friend meant so much to Scott and I. A special thanks to Janet and Bob for their leadership in making everything run smooth. And, not to be forgotten, is the clean-up crew – you are indispensable. Thanks – Jane and Scott Huffman

**THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION**

We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723. **Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm 66:20**

<i>Brad Ashley</i>	<i>Anita Kelly-Lahrmer</i>
<i>Noreen Ashley</i>	<i>Zell Lambert</i>
<i>Tim Ashley</i>	<i>Roberta Lewis</i>
<i>The Becking Family</i>	<i>Ron Mitchell</i>
<i>Katie Ann Bickett</i>	<i>Bob Poff</i>
<i>Margarete Boschert</i>	<i>David and Jackie Parker</i>
<i>Jim Brown</i>	<i>LTJG John Norton</i>
<i>Patti Calvarese</i>	<i>Heather Read</i>
<i>Jim Caplinger</i>	<i>Richard Reynolds</i>
<i>Patty Conely</i>	<i>Alice Sheeler</i>
<i>Rylin Davis and family</i>	<i>Eddie Showalter</i>
<i>Sean and Sara Doty</i>	<i>Lt. Maxwell Spear</i>
<i>Debbie Fickes</i>	<i>Jeff Sullivan</i>
<i>Karen Ford</i>	<i>Richard &amp; Karen Thomason</i>
<i>Eleanor Hall</i>	<i>Kim and Noel Walters</i>
<i>Angela Hammelman</i>	<i>Ensign 2 Kaitlyn Wetter</i>
<i>Alleen Hilbush</i>	<i>Don Woerz</i>
<i>Jim Jackson</i>	<i>Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group</i>
<i>John James</i>	
<i>Nancy Johnson</i>	

**SAVE THE DATE  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY, 25  
DURING WORSHIP**



Rev. Daniel J. Doty, *Senior Minister*  
Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Choir Director/Organist*  
Wendy Brown, *Director of Family Ministries*

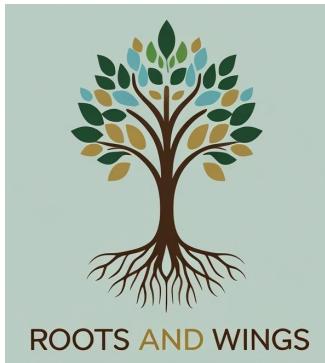
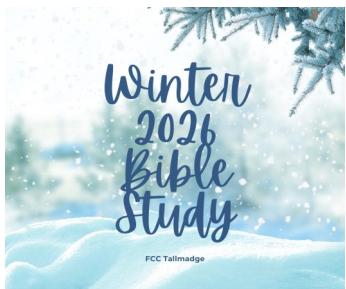
**IN PERSON | PARKING LOT | ONLINE WORSHIP**  
SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm  
Fridays—9:00 am—12:00 pm

85 HERITAGE DR | TALLMADGE, OH 44278

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## WINTER BOOK STUDY | WEDNESDAYS, 12PM, BEGINNING, JAN. 14

The Winter 2026 FCC Book Study will be a study of the book "Second Thoughts about Hell: Understanding What We Believe" by Ronald Allen and Robert Cornwall. We have copies of the book available in the church office for \$14. This book study will begin at noon on January 14 in the David Bacon Room. Bring a lunch and bring a friend!

## WINTER BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAYS, 1PM, BEGINNING, JAN. 14

The Winter 2026 Bible Study will continue its study of the Christian Scriptures in chronological order. The study will commence on Wednesday, January 14, and begin with 2 Corinthians. We will then go to James and finish with Colossians. The study will take place on Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. A reading list that will allow you to prepare for each class will be distributed on Sunday mornings beginning Dec. 21. See you there!

## GLOBAL MISSIONS MEETING | SUNDAY, JAN. 18, AFTER WORSHIP

FCC is holding informational meetings about the process to become a Global Mission Church. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18th, after worship. Please join us!

## ROOTS AND WINGS | SUNDAY, JAN. 18, 4PM

**Roots and Wings** is a new fellowship group for grandparents and grandchildren to grow in faith and friendship together. The next few meetings will be on the THIRD SUNDAY instead of the second Sunday of the month due to scheduling... Our next meeting is **January 18 @ 4:00 pm—Winter Wonderland games, please come in the kitchen doors**