

MORNING PRAYER

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE REV. TERI WALDRON, PRESIDING

January 4, 2026



THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

MUSIC WILL BE PLAYED

OPENING PRAYER FOR PURITY AND COLLECT

PRESIDER: 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.

ASSISTANT: O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

CONFESSiON

Silence is kept. Then all pray the confession together on mute, led by Assistant.

ASSISTANT: A voice cries out in the wilderness, “make straight the way of the Lord.” So let us listen and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith (John 1:23).

Holy One, we encounter you in our lives and try to follow faithfully, but so often we get lost or turn away. We try to love our neighbors and ourselves, and even, by your grace, to love our enemies, but we fail. We take the wrong path and stray from the way of your love. Forgive us, Lord, and guide us back to you.

PRESIDER:  We turn to you, God of Love, and we accept your grace. We accept your pardon. We accept the gift of a new path, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LESSONS

ASSISTANT: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah
[60:1-6]

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon
you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on
their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be
brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1–7,10–14 *Please join Presider on mute in a responsive reading.*

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

THE EPISTLE

ASSISTANT: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians [3:1–12]

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

PRESIDER: A reading from the Holy Gospel
According to Matthew [2:1-12]

Glory to you Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers
of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

May the words of the Gospel be made flesh in us.

Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

KINDLY KEEP ALL MICS MUTED DURING SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Vincent Pizzuto



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All are invited to sit in silent communion with one another. Presider will signal the end of our meditation after four minutes.

LECTIO DIVINA

All are invited to share a short few words, phrases, or themes from the sermon that speak to our hearts. We raise our 'yellow hands' when ready to speak and lower when finished. The Presider will call on us. We listen prayerfully to each one, but do not comment.

When the Presider sees that everyone who wishes to speak has done so, the Presider says Amen. [We are invited to save further reflections to our Coffee with Jesus.]

MUSIC SIGNALS THE END OF THE LECTIO DIVINA.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

ASSISTANT: Let us together proclaim our profession of faith, which has been handed down to us from ancient of days.

Please join Assistant on mute

We believe in God, *Creator of all*:
The two-legged, the four-legged,
the winged ones, and those that crawl upon
the earth and swim in the waters.

We believe in God, *One Who Walked with Us*:
Our Brother Jesus born in humility,
who lived and died for us and
who will come again to bring us to glory.

We believe in God, *Spirit with Us*:
Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us and
showing us the principles to live by.

We hear God's voice through the prophets. Creator,
One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us.

Holy One: We are named in the waters of baptism as
your own, all of us related, all of us your children.

We watch for signs of your homecoming and thank
you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

PRESIDER: My sisters and brothers, the peace of Christ is with you!

ASSISTANT: And with your spirit.

PRESIDER: Let us embody Christ's peace for one another.

Presider will invite us all into small groups for several minutes to exchange a sign of peace and get to know one another. If you are new to St. Columba's we welcome you. If you are a member already, please extend a warm welcome to those in your group.

THE PRAYERS

PRESIDER: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Please pray responsively on mute, led by Presider:

PRESIDER: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Austin our Bishop in the Diocese of California, Sarah Archbishop of Canterbury, and for all bishops and other ministers, both lay and ordained;

For all who serve God and their neighbors.

For the special concerns of this congregation.

Silence

PRESIDER: For whom or for what else shall we pray?

All are invited to voice prayers before the community or offer them in the silence of your heart. [Unmute before speaking, then kindly mute again.]

PRAYER RESPONSE:

PRESIDER: God hear us,

ASSISTANT: *God graciously hear us...*

PRESIDER: Lord God, hear the prayers of your people: those we have voiced in the presence of your Assembly, those we hold in the silence of our hearts, and those for which we have yet to find words. In gratitude and love, we entrust ourselves to you who knows better than we the deepest needs of our hearts. In the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PRESIDER: Let us pray as Jesus taught:

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 and ever. Amen.

PRESIDER: Savior, Redeemer, Beloved of God, clothe us in your love, strengthen us to live gently on this earth, give us humility to see all we encounter as precious to you, and teach us to walk with kindness and patience this hour and always.

Amen.

PRESIDER: ☧ May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from your paths; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Three-In-One and One-In-Three be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

ASSISTANT: My siblings in Christ, let us go forth into the world to love and serve the Divine and each other.

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING MUSIC WILL BE PLAYED



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE REACHED OUT
TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY!**

**ONLINE DONATIONS MAY BE MADE VIA THE "GIVE" BUTTON ON OUR
WEBSITE, OR CHECKS MAILED TO:**

ST. COLUMBA'S INVERNESS
PO Box 430
INVERNESS, CA
94937

VIRTUAL CHAPEL ONLINE OFFERINGS

**IF YOU ARE NEWLY JOINING US
Please go to our website's VIRTUAL CHAPEL to access all of our
online offerings or to register your name and email to be
informed of our future offerings:**

www.stcolumbasinverness.org

NEED PASTORAL ASSISTANCE?

*Please Email Meredith Burrell
who can help direct your needs to the right person:
mburrell01@hotmail.com*

ONLINE EVENTS

ONLINE BOOK STUDY

Is a River Alive? by Robert Macfarlane

Thursdays, January 22, February 5, and February 19

4:30–6pm



LOVE GOD, LOVE GOD'S WORLD

Online course hosted by CED

Begins Monday, February 9, 4–5:30pm.

Continues through nine monthly sessions on the
second Monday, ending October 12.

Limited enrolment, registration required.



NOON PRAYER

Weekly, Wednesdays, 12pm

Prayer, scripture study, meditation, and discussion, led by Mother Teri Waldron



ST. COLUMBA'S SERMON RECORDINGS



ANGLICAN STUDIES WITH FR. ANDREW

Class recordings



IN-PERSON EVENTS

EXPLORING THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION

In-person retreat with Rachel Gaunt

January 9-10

Limited to 8 people, sign up soon!



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Chapel, Wednesdays, 7pm

ST. COLUMBA'S VIRTUAL PLATE FOR YOUR DONATIONS



SCREENING OF SUGARCANE

January 10, 4pm

This award-winning documentary is part of Faith Community Screening Tour of the story of Native Boarding Schools and their impact on Indigenous communities. The goal is to support a post-screening conversation focussed on shared understanding, courage, and repair. Free, and open to the public.

Contact Penny Washbourn for more information.

penelopewashbourn@gmail.com



ALL-PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, following coffee hour

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS?

COFFEE WITH JESUS

Take few minutes to get your favorite morning beverage and return to us for coffee hour small group conversation.

