

MORNING PRAYER

ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRIS OLSON, PRESIDING

January 25, 2026



THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER 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: Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 [9:1–4]

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27 [1,5–13] *Please join Presider on mute in a responsive reading.*

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *

***the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?***

5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek; *

***that I may dwell in the house of
the LORD all the days of my life;***

6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *
and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me
safe in his shelter; *

***he shall hide me in the secrecy of his
dwelling and set me high upon a rock.***

8 Even now he lifts up my head *

above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an
oblation with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my
face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, *
*nor turn away your servant in
displeasure.*

13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

THE EPISTLE

ASSISTANT: A reading from the First Letter of Paul
to the Corinthians [1:10–18]

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of
you be in agreement and that there be no
divisions among you,

but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

PRESIDER: A reading from the Holy Gospel
According to Matthew [4:12–23]

Glory to you Lord Christ.

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the
Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and
shadow of death
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come
near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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 us and scatter the darkness from our paths; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Three-In-One and One-In-Three be upon us and remain with us 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

Continues February 5 and February 19, 4:30–6pm



NOON PRAYER

Weekly, Wednesdays, 12pm

Led by Mother Teri Waldron



ST. COLUMBA'S SERMON RECORDINGS



EVENSONG

First Thursdays, Monthly

February 5, 7pm

Candlelight circle of sung prayer, spoken prayer,
and silent meditation, led by Ann McChesney-
Young.



THE POETRY OF LOVE, COLETTE LAFIA

Saturday, February 14

Love is something we live, often quietly, in the
ordinary moments of our day. In this Valentine's Day
poetry writing workshop, spiritual director and
author Colette Lafia invites participants to explore
the poetry of love as a form of prayer.



IN-PERSON EVENTS

ALL-PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

TODAY! January 25, following coffee hour

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Chapel, Wednesdays, 7pm

ANDREW FINN MAGILL & CANTO VIOLINO!

U.S. violinist Andrew Finn Magill, Brazilian percussionist Clarice Cast, and Brazilian 7-string guitarist Nando Duarte.

February 1, 3–5pm

Advance tickets \$25 at website.

At door \$30, cash only



SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17

<https://www.stcolumbasinverness.org/shrove-tuesday>



BE NOT AFRAID

Writing retreat with Marilyn McEntyre

February 26–28, details coming

ST. COLUMBA'S VIRTUAL PLATE FOR YOUR DONATIONS



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS?

COFFEE WITH JESUS

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

