

The Falls Village Congregational Church  
January 4, 2026 10:00 a.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas - Epiphany Sunday

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**Welcome and Announcements**

**Ringing of the Church Bell**

**Prelude** – *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* - arr. J Carter

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE**

**Call to Worship**

O Trinity of love, God in community, holy and one: Look now on us who look to you

**And hear our prayer for our community.**

Where there is falseness

**Smother it by your truth.**

Where there is any coldness

**Kindle the flame of your love.**

Where there is joy and hope

**Free us to share it together.**

And make us one

**As you are one.**

**A Prayer for the New Year (Unison):**

O God, your days are without beginning and without end. We dedicate this time of worship and this coming year to you. Give us such prosperity as you know is good for us, and make us abound in doing whatever is pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn #172 “We Three Kings”**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Eternal God, who can make all things new, we bring before you the record of our lives in the year now ended. Where life has been good to us, do not let us take more credit than we deserve. Where we have been good to others, help us to forget all thoughts of honor

and reward. Where we have fallen short, forgive us, and free us from brooding over what is past. Cleanse us by your mercy, guide us by your truth, fill us with your love, lead us forward in your all-conquering hope. Through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.*

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

*World without end. Amen. Amen.*

**Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

**TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 63:7-9 Kay Blass

New Testament Reading – Matthew 2:1-12 Barbara Lobdell

**“Lost and Found” Story from Rich Reifsnyder.**

**Prayer (Unison):**

Lord Jesus, because we could not come to you, you came to us. Because we could not find our way home, you showed us the way. This *year* our joy is full, our hope is fulfilled, our yearning is met with your great grace, for the word has become flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Alleluias fill our hearts and we are grateful. Amen

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

**The Offertory** – *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* - arr. G. Gilpin

**The Lord’s Prayer**

## THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn:** #469 *“I Am the Light of the World”*

### **Benediction**

**Benediction Response**      *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

*God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
may the Shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet.*

*Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again*

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*You are invited to place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either  
entrance to the church.*

## *Scripture Lessons for January 4, 2026*

### **ISAIAH 63:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### **MATTHEW 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>‘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.’” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.”

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another.

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