

# EPIPHANY 2026 BY ANOTHER ROAD



*Serve & Enrich*  
Zion United Church  
of Christ

**Our Mission:** United by Christ's loving embrace, a welcoming light in an unsure world, we serve and enrich the community and provide a safe gathering space for fellowship, spiritual growth, and self-exploration.

**Our Vision:** Transforming and caring for our community through Christ's love.

**Pastor:** Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan

**Organist:** Martha Main

**Bell Choir Director:** Vivian Thomas

**Office Manager:** Michael Brown

**Custodians:** Anita and Greg Law

**Scripture Reader:** Collin Bennington

**Tech Steward:** Greg Miller



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**January 4, 2026 – The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany**

## Prelude

## Gathering

**One:** Come, you who are weary, you who have been bruised by life, you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.

**Many:** **We come, longing to be renewed.**

**One:** The Holy One who stretches out the heavens is stretching us now—stretching our hearts toward courage, our hands toward compassion, our lives toward gentle justice.

**Many:** **We open ourselves to be stretched into new life.**

**One:** A voice from heaven says to us, as it said to Jesus: You are my beloved. This Spirit rests upon us, too.

**Many:** **We are God's Beloved, called to bring gentle justice.**

**One:** Come, let us remember who we are.

**Many:** **Let us worship God with joy.+**

## \*Gathering Song

*Gather Us In, 649*

**Prayer—**You Who Call Us, we come before you in answer your call in our life. You created the heavens and the earth and placed us here for life and hope. We know your dream for a world that is righteous and just, a world you promise will come to pass.

Breathe your Spirit upon us again and again, and bring to life our passion for your bold vision. Make us lights to those who sit in darkness! In the name of Jesus, who descended into the waters of baptism to show us the way to righteousness, and of the Soaring Spirit, who alights upon those who arise from these life-giving waters.~

**The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.**

## Exploring Together

*What Kind of Traveler Are You?*

### Scripture

*Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSVUE)*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from

it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

## Reflection

*Chosen for the Way*

## Hymn

*Arise Your Light Is Come! 231*

## We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

**Invitation**—Isaiah calls those who partner with God “a light to the nations.” We are to establish justice in the earth and bring those who sit in darkness into the light. What important world-shaping work! May we give of our lives and gifts for this work!~

## January Benevolence

*Zion Emergency Assistance Fund*

## **\*Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**—God of Bold Visions for our World, you love all peoples and nations, seeking a world where everyone flourishes in just and righteous lives. Use us and our gifts for the newness you declare possible. Make this newness spring forth in and through us. Amen.~

## **Hymn**

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness, 93*

**Benediction**—Chosen, beloved, servants of God, God is doing a new thing and calls you to be part of it. So, go forth to follow in God's ways, to be welcoming light in an unsure world, to serve and enrich, and to bring justice and Good News to all people. Amen.

## **Postlude**

~ Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. Abingdon Worship Annual 2026. Abingdon Press.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THIS WEEK AT ZION**

- Sunday, 9 am – Choir Practice
- Sunday, 2 pm – Choir Practice
- Sunday, 3 pm – Pastor Sarah's Ordination and Reception
- Wednesday, 5:30 pm – Worship Team (Z)
- Thursday, 11 am – Golden Friends Planning (FH)
- Sunday, January 18, after worship – Special Congregational Meeting, Roundabout
- Sunday, January 18, after meeting – Young Adult Pizza and Games

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**—Council is calling a Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 18, after worship. We are at the point in the process for the roundabout that we need congregational approval for the sale of the land. A handout with updated information is available. We hope you can make it to this important meeting. If you have any questions, please see the Roundabout Taskforce or a council member.
- **ANNUAL REPORTS**—Annual Reports are due by Sunday, January 25. Please email them to [zionsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zionsecretary@sbcglobal.net). Reports will be distributed on February 8 ahead of our February 22 Congregational Meeting.
- **SRI LANKA PARTNERSHIP TRIP**—As the chair of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Sri Lanka Partnership Team, Pastor Sarah will help lead a delegation to visit our partners in Sri Lanka in the Church of the American Ceylon Mission. The

trip is January 21-February 2. Hold our partnership team in your prayers as they set out to do this important work.

- **ORDINATION**—You're invited to celebrate the ordination of Pastor Sarah on Sunday, January 11. Worship begins at 3 pm in the sanctuary, and a reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. The service will be livestreamed for those who cannot make it in-person. The choir will practice at 2 pm.

## SERVE

- **SAVE THE DATE: WORKDAY**—Roll up those sleeves and join us for a workday on January 24 from 9am-12pm in the sanctuary! Help us tidy up the sanctuary with a deep cleaning of our pews, an extra dusting, and more. We could use as many volunteers as possible to help us accomplish these tasks.
- **BLOOD DRIVE**—Our first Red Cross Blood Drive of the year is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, from 12-6 pm, in the community center gym. Go to [zionuccindy.net/blooddrive](http://zionuccindy.net/blooddrive) to sign up. We are also looking for volunteers to help check-in donors. Sign up today if you're available to help.
- **JANUARY BENEVOLENCE**—We never know when the call might come to serve our neighbors. We never know how it might come--a call at the office, a neighbor knocking on the door, a Facebook message. There are times when our neighbors turn to us in times of crisis and uncertainty. When that call comes, we want to be able to share our resources and our love generously and abundantly. Our *Emergency Assistance Fund* allows us to say, "yes," when our neighbors turn to us for support. Consider sharing your resources so that we don't have to turn anyone away.

## ENRICH

- **GOLDEN FRIENDS**—Join the Golden Friends in the Fellowship Hall on January 15 at 11 am as we set our calendar for the new year. Some plans are already in the works for educational opportunities, but we need your help planning the fun!
- **YOUNG ADULT GROUP**—The Young Adult Group will gather on January 18 after the congregational meeting for pizza and games. Bring your favorite game and a drink. Be sure to invite family and friends to join us, too.