

**Sunday Worship on January 18, 2026**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Kevin Johnston )

**We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song BOP 290 Immortal, invisible, God only wise (Vs. 1-4)
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 773 Jesus bids us shine (Vs. 1-3)
- Prayer for children

**We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Isaiah 49:1-7
- Second reading: Psalm 40:1-11 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: John 1:29-42
- Praise song BOP 525 Behold the Lamb of God (This week only)
- Sermon: **Behold the Lamb of God**
- Praise song BOP 777 Send me, Lord (Vs. 1-3)
- Prayer for people

**We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (tune BOP 79 Praise God with songs that never cease) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 342 All who the name of Jesus bear (Vs. 1-4)

**We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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**Responsive Call to Worship**

O Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouths shall declare your praise.**

O Lord, open our eyes,

**So that we may behold your presence.**

O Lord, open our ears,

**So that we may hear your call to follow.**

O Lord, open our hearts,

**So that we may offer you worship in love and joy.**

**Praise song – BOP 290 Immortal, invisible, God only wise (Vs. 1-4)**

**Prayer of Adoration**

God, our Creator and Redeemer, your faithfulness endures forever.

You offer us new life in Jesus Christ and call us to follow him.  
You challenge us to bring life and hope to the world you love.  
In you, we find strength and courage to face every challenge.  
And so we offer our praise and gratitude to you, O God,  
with Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**Faithful God, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost  
yet it's hard to recognize we have lost our way.**

**We seek the next new thing instead of your gift of new life.**

**We follow the trends of our culture rather than Jesus' example.**

**Wash over us with your cleansing Spirit, and renew our commitment to follow your  
purposes revealed in Christ Jesus.**

**Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (The Lord's Prayer:)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on  
earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Let us rejoice, for God has put a new song in our mouths!

Trust in God's enduring love and mercy, washing over us every day. Know that forgiveness is  
yours, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**May the Peace of Christ be with you.** *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

**Praise song BOP BOP 773 Jesus bids us shine (Vs. 1-3)**

**Prayer for the children**

**Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Isaiah 49:1-7
- Second reading: Psalm 40:1-11 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: John 1:29-42

**"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

- Praise song BOP 525 Behold the Lamb of God (This week only)

**Sermon: Behold the Lamb of God**

**"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." – John 1:29**

Sometimes, the most important thing we can do in faith is not to decide, not to promise, not to try harder, but simply to look.

John the Baptist does not say, “Try to be better.”  
He doesn’t say, “Fix your life.”  
He points and says, “Behold.”

Look. See. Pay attention.

And what does he show us?  
Not a judge.  
Not a warrior.  
Not a religious hero.

John the Baptist shows us a Lamb.

That word, the lamb, would have landed heavily on the ears of the people.  
A lamb meant sacrifice.  
A lamb meant blood on the doorposts – from Exodus.  
A lamb meant deliverance that came not by strength, but by substitution.

Before Jesus Christ died on the cross, in our place, people came to God by cleansing themselves by shedding the blood of a sacrificial animal, a lamb.

A worshipper brought a sacrificial lamb to the priest.  
The priest symbolically placed the sin of the worshipper upon the lamb. The lamb was offered, and through its death,  
the worshipper was declared clean and finally became able once again to stand before God.

This is the picture of the substitution.  
Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb for each one of us and cleansed us, made us clean, so that Jesus opened the door to God, so that we can be connected to God again. This is the salvation and this is the reconciliation.

Here, John the Baptist is pointing out to Jesus.  
**This is Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb for all.**

This is the one who carries what we cannot carry.

This is the one who takes away – not manages, not overlooks, but takes away – the sin of the world.

Notice something important. Before anyone follows Jesus, before anyone understands him, before anyone confesses him, **Jesus is already the sacrificial Lamb for all of us.**

Grace comes before response.

God acts before we move. This is always the order of the gospel.

**The gospel always begins with what Christ has done, not what we must do.**

The next day, John says it again. **V35, “Look, here is the Lamb of God.”**

This time, two disciples heard him and they followed Jesus.

At that time, Jesus does not demand them anything.

He turned and asked a gentle question.

**V38, “What are you looking for?”**

**He did not ask “What do you believe?”**

**Not, “Who do you love?”**

**Not, “Are you committed?”**

**Just, (simply) “What are you seeking?”**

They answered awkward but honest, **V38, “They said to him, “Rabbi, which translated means Teacher), where are you staying?”**

And Jesus replied with one of the most gracious and simple invitations in the Bible. **V39, “Come and see.”**

Jesus did not give a lecture. He did not demand anything from them.

Just a simple invitation.

**Come with me.**

**Stay with me.**

**Be with me.**

This is how discipleship begins, not with certainty, not with information, not with skills, but with presence.

Andrews then goes to his brother Simon and says, **“We have found the Messiah.”** And Andrew brings Peter to Jesus.

This is the first picture of evangelizing. Andrew is the first person who invited someone to Jesus. We sometimes joke that in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, half of the churches are named St. Andrew's or Knox. I think, this St. Andrew's came from here, when Andrew invites Peter to Jesus.

As St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, we want to learn from Andrew and follow his way. We want to invite others to Jesus. Let us share the good news of the gospel. Come and see the Lamb of God who poured out his life for us.

This is how faith spreads in John's Gospel.

Not through arguments, not through pressure, not through teaching, but through people saying, **"Come and see what I have seen."**

And it all begins here. **By beholding the Lamb of God.**

Sisters and brothers of in Jesus Christ, you are the church.

And this matters for us today.

Because many of us are tired of trying to carry what was never meant for us to carry. What are we carrying?

Too much baggage. Too much pressure.

Guilt. Shame. Regret. Blame. Fear about the future.

John does not say to us, "You just need to carry it better!" "Do more, have more, so you can hide your shame." "Pretend that everything's okey, so you don't show your fear."

If these are the messages you are hearing from your inside or outside, they are not the voice of the gospel. Listen to this.

John the Baptist says, "Look again."

**"Behold the Lamb of God."**

The one who steps into our place.

The one who carries the weight of the world.

The one who takes away sin – not just in theory, but in love.

The one who invites us to be with him.

We are not saved by how tightly we hold on to God.

We are not saved by how much we love one another.

We are saved because God holds us.

We are saved because God holds us firmly in Jesus Christ.

We are saved because God sent Jesus Christ in the place of our death.

Jesus did nothing to deserve death on the cross.

Whose sin did Jesus take away?  
Isn't it my sin? Isn't it your sin?  
Who should have died on the cross? Whose death did Jesus die?

So today, before we do anything else...

Before we promise to God, before we follow God, before we solve problems... **Let us pause.** Let us look. Let us readjust our focus. Let us pay attention to our Jesus. Behold the Lamb of God. In quietness, let us take about one minute in silence adjusting our focus toward God again. Then, I will pray. Let us come to God.

**Let us pray.**

God of love, God of grace, we thank you for Jesus Christ, the Lamb who takes away my sin, our sin, and all the sin of the world. When we are weary, help us to look again. When we are burdened, remind us that he carries what we cannot. Root our faith not in our strength, but in your grace. Teach us to follow with trust, humility, and joy.  
In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Praise song BOP 777 Send me, Lord (Vs. 1-3)**

**Prayer for the people:**

Faithful and compassionate God, we come before you as your beloved people, carrying many things in our hearts.

We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Lamb who enters our broken world with gentleness and power, who knows suffering from the inside, and who walks with us even when the road is unclear.

We pray for those among us who are tired, anxious, or overwhelmed. For those carrying grief, illness, loneliness, or uncertainty. Be their peace and their strength.

We lift before you our world, so often marked by violence, injustice, and fear. Where hatred divides, bring reconciliation. Where people suffer under war, poverty, or displacement, let your mercy be made known.

Shape us as a church that reflects the humility of Christ. Make us a people who point not to ourselves, but to the Lamb of God.

Hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, for we offer them to you relying upon your love and faithfulness.

Hold our hands and walk with us.

In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:**

Having seen the grace of God in Jesus Christ, we respond not out of obligation, but out of gratitude. As those who have received mercy, we now offer our gifts for the work of God's love in the church and in the world.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify God.

*(BOP #79, Praise God with songs)(words are on the screen)*

**Offering prayer:**

Generous God, all that we have comes from you. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust and gratitude. Use them to bear witness to Christ, to serve our neighbours, and to reflect your love and compassion in the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 342 All who the name of Jesus bear (Vs. 1-4)**

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

Today, we were invited not to strive, but to look. Behold the Lamb of God. Before we follow, before we understand, Christ has already acted in love. He carries what we cannot and invites us to come and see. As we leave this place, may our lives quietly point others to Jesus Christ, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.