



Accompaniment Play List and Sermon available on YouTube at

<http://bit.ly/OUMC01-18-2026>

## WELCOME &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

<sup>8</sup> Yahweh is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and of great loving kindness.

<sup>9</sup> Yahweh is good to all.

His tender mercies are over all his works.

<sup>10</sup> All your works will give thanks to you, Yahweh. Your saints will extol you.

<sup>11</sup> They will speak of the glory of your kingdom,

## Psalm 145: 8-13 WEB

and talk about your power,<sup>12</sup> to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, the glory of the majesty of his kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. Your dominion endures throughout all generations. Yahweh is faithful in all his words, and loving in all his deeds.

## INTROIT UMH #555

## "Forward Through the Ages (refrain)"

<https://youtu.be/MAy992FOJBs>

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,

move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

## OPENING PRAYER

Merciful and gracious God,  
You are slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love; all Your works give thanks to You  
and all Your faithful bless You.

Send upon us the Spirit of wisdom and  
understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and reverence for You.

Awaken in each of us the gifts You have given  
for the common good, that our worship may  
build up Your people and bring healing to the  
world.

Gather us as Your beloved children, delighting  
in us as You delighted in Your Servant, Jesus  
Christ. Through Him we pray. Amen.

## AFFIRMATION

## "Korean Creed"

UMH # 884

We believe in the one God, creator and  
sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the  
source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and  
love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the  
flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the  
Savior of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present  
with us for guidance, for comfort, and for  
strength.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life  
of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every  
need.

We believe in the Word of God contained in  
the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient  
rule both of faith and of practice.

We believe in the church, those who are united  
in the living Lord for the purpose of worship  
and service.

We believe in the reign of God as the divine  
will realized in human society, and in the  
family of God, where we are all brothers and  
sisters.

We believe in the final triumph of  
righteousness and in the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## 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.

1. God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your pow'r;  
crown your ancient Church's story,  
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

3. Cure your children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

## ANTHEM (Suggested)

## "Build Your Kingdom Here"

[https://youtu.be/r-4bEbK1m\\_c](https://youtu.be/r-4bEbK1m_c)

Rend Collective

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

## Isaiah 11: 1-5 WEB

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come out of the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch out of his roots will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> Yahweh's Spirit will rest on him:  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of  
Yahweh.

<sup>3</sup> His delight will be in the fear of Yahweh.  
He will not judge by the sight of his eyes,  
neither decide by the hearing of his ears;

<sup>4</sup> but he will judge the poor with righteousness,  
and decide with equity for the humble of the  
earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of  
his mouth; and with the breath of his lips he  
will kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be the belt around his  
waist, and faithfulness the belt around his  
waist.

## JOYS &amp; CONCERNS and MORNING PRAYER

Merciful and gracious God,  
You are slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love; all Your works give thanks to  
You, and all Your faithful bless You.

Send upon us the Spirit of wisdom and  
understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and reverence for You,  
as Isaiah proclaimed. May that same Spirit rest  
upon us, shaping our thoughts, guiding our  
decisions, and strengthening our hands for  
service.

As Paul reminds us, You give gifts to each one  
for the common good. Teach us to recognize

those gifts in ourselves and in one another, and  
to use them not for pride or gain, but to build  
up Your people, heal the broken, and bring  
hope to the weary.

Lord, in Your mercy, gather us as Your beloved  
children. Delight in us as You delighted in Your  
Servant, Jesus Christ, at the waters of baptism.  
Renew our hearts with Your compassion, so  
that our lives may reflect Your steadfast love  
and our community may be a witness to Your  
grace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who  
taught us to pray...

*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. Amen.*

HYMN UMH #555

“Forward Through the Ages”

[https://youtu.be/\\_f18Gj60QVs](https://youtu.be/_f18Gj60QVs)

1. Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;  
gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,  
manifold the service, one the sure reward.

2. Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and  
light;  
for it we must labor, till our faith is sight.  
Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,  
poets sung its glory, heroes for it died. (Refrain)

**Refrain:**

**Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
move the faithful spirits at the call divine.**

3. Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;  
in each loss or triumph lose or triumph all.  
Bound by God's far purpose in one living  
whole,  
move we on together to the shining goal.  
(Refrain)

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual things, brothers, I don't want you to be ignorant. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were heathen, you were led away to those mute idols, however you might be led. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I make known to you that no man speaking by God's Spirit says, "Jesus is accursed." No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," but by the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:1-7 WEB**  
<sup>4</sup> Now there are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are various kinds of workings, but the same God who works all things in all. <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all.

MESSAGE

“For the Common Good”

Rev Jim Canody

<https://bit.ly/Sermon01-18-2026>

**This morning, I want you to imagine something with me. Picture a master craftsman's workshop – perhaps a carpenter's shop or a jeweler's bench. The craftsman has dozens of tools hanging on the wall: saws, hammers, chisels, files, each one designed for a specific purpose. None of these tools exists for itself. The hammer doesn't sit there thinking, "I'm the most important tool here." The chisel doesn't envy the saw. Each tool finds its meaning, its purpose, only when it's picked up by the craftsman's hand and used to create something beautiful.**

Today we're going to explore three passages that reveal a profound truth: God has given each of us gifts through His Spirit – not for our own glory, not to compete with one another,

but for the common good, to build something beautiful together.

Let's begin with Isaiah's ancient prophecy. Isaiah 11:2 tells us: "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD."

Isaiah was writing about the coming Messiah, but this passage also reveals something fundamental about how God's Spirit works. Notice that word "rest." The Spirit doesn't just visit occasionally or flutter by like a passing bird. The Spirit rests – settles down, takes up residence, abides.

**Think about what happens when someone rests in your home. When my grandmother used to visit, she didn't just stand in the**

doorway. She settled in. She unpacked her suitcase, arranged her things on the dresser, made herself at home. Her presence transformed the house. The kitchen smelled different—breakfasts and dinners were different than usual. Any mending's that had piled up were taken care of. Her resting presence changed everything.

This is what the Spirit does when He rests upon us. He doesn't just touch us and leave. He settles in, unpacks, transforms us from the inside out.

And look at what the Spirit brings: *wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord*. These aren't just nice religious words—they're practical gifts. *Wisdom* to make good decisions. *Understanding* to see beneath the surface of situations. *Counsel* to know what to say to someone who's hurting. *Might* to persevere when everything feels impossible. *Knowledge of God* that anchors us when storms come.

Now let's fast-forward several centuries to the apostle Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. He writes: "*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*"

This verse is the hinge on which our entire understanding of spiritual gifts must swing. "*For the common good*" – not for personal advancement, not for individual glory, not to create a spiritual hierarchy where some people are more important than others.

**Let me tell you about something a pastor friend of told me about a few years back**  
...There was a small church in a struggling neighborhood that was trying to decide whether to invest their limited resources in a new sound system or in a community food pantry. The worship leader argued passionately for the sound system—after all, excellence in worship honors God, right? But a quiet woman in the back, someone most people barely noticed, stood up and said something I've never forgotten: "My gift is administration, and I've run the numbers. We can feed forty families for a month with what

that sound system costs. Maybe God gave us the gift of music not to impress each other, but to give hope to our neighbors."

The church chose the food pantry. Within a year, that pantry had become a gathering place where people found not just food, but community, prayer, counseling, and job opportunities. The worship leader later told me, "I thought my gift of music was about the music. I didn't realize it was about creating a space where people could encounter God's love practically."

That's *the common good*. It's when we stop asking "**What can my gifts do for me?**" and start asking "**What can my gifts do for us? For them? For the kingdom?**"

Paul says "*to each one*" the Spirit is *manifested*. Not to some special elite. Not to the super-spiritual. To *each one*. That means the person sitting next to you right now has been given something by the Spirit. That means you—yes, you who sometimes wonder if you have anything to offer—you have received a *manifestation of the Spirit for the common good*.

Finally, let's turn to Psalm 145. Verses 8 through 10 declare: "*The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you.*"

Here's what we must understand: the gifts the Spirit gives us flow from the character of the Giver. God is gracious—so spiritual gifts are acts of grace, NOT rewards for merit. God is compassionate—so spiritual gifts are given to extend that compassion to others. God is *slow to anger and rich in love*—so our gifts should never be wielded harshly or withheld selfishly.

**I think of a doctor who had extraordinary diagnostic skills—a gift of knowledge, you might say. She could look at symptoms that baffled other physicians and somehow see what was really wrong. But she never made other doctors feel stupid. She never lorded her gift over anyone. Instead, she taught. She mentored. She shared what she saw. When**

**someone asked her once why she didn't just enjoy being the smartest person in the room, she said, "Because God's not the smartest person in the room. God's the most loving person in the room. If my intelligence doesn't serve love, what good is it?"**

The psalm says "*the LORD is good to all.*" **ALL.** Not just the deserving. Not just the lovely. Not just the people who agree with us or think like us or vote like us. **ALL.** And if God has compassion on all He has made, then the gifts He gives us through His Spirit must be used with that same radical, inclusive compassion. So what does all this mean for us, here, today?

**First**, it means we need to identify our gifts—not to boast about them, but to steward them. The Spirit has rested upon you. What has He brought with Him? Maybe it's wisdom—you're the person people come to when they don't know what to do. Maybe it's encouragement—you have a knack for seeing the best in people and calling it out. Maybe it's service—you're happiest when your hands are busy meeting practical needs. Maybe it's giving—you find joy in making resources available to others.

**Second**, it means we need to release our gifts *for the common good*. I've seen too many talented, gifted people sit on the sidelines because they don't think their gift is "spiritual enough" or "important enough." Listen to me: if the Spirit gave it to you, it's spiritual. If it can serve *the common good*, it's important.

**Think about it this way. In a hospital, the surgeon gets a lot of attention. But the surgeon can't save anyone without the anesthesiologist monitoring vitals, the nurses administering medications, the technicians maintaining equipment, the custodians keeping everything sterile, the administrators ensuring supplies are available. Every role matters. Every gift matters.**

**Third**, it means we need to exercise our gifts with God's character—graciously, compassionately, patiently, lovingly. The most prophetically gifted person who speaks truth without compassion has missed the point. The

most administratively talented person who organizes without grace has misunderstood the Giver. The most generous person who gives with strings attached has forgotten that God's love is unconditional.

Let me return to where we started—that image of the craftsman's workshop. You are a tool in the Master Craftsman's hand. But unlike those inanimate tools hanging on the wall, you have a choice. You can resist the Craftsman's grip, insisting on your own purposes. You can hang unused on the wall, convinced you're not the right tool for the job. Or you can rest in His hand, trust His skill, and discover the joy of being used for something far more beautiful than you could create alone.

The Spirit has rested upon you. You have been given a manifestation of that Spirit for the common good. And the God who gave you this gift is *gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love*.

So here's my invitation this morning: Stop waiting to be someone else. Stop envying gifts you don't have. Stop minimizing gifts you do have. The Spirit has already equipped you. The question is not "Am I gifted?" The question is "Will I use my gifts *for the common good*?"

Imagine what this church could become—what this community could become—if every single one of us said yes to that question. If every gift were released. If every talent were offered. If every Spirit-given ability were employed for the common good, flowing from God's compassionate character.

That's not just a nice dream. That's the reality God is inviting us into. That's the workshop where the Master Craftsman is calling us to take our place.

Will you answer that call?

**Let us pray:**

Gracious God, Your Spirit rests upon us, bringing gifts we don't deserve and couldn't earn. Help us to recognize these gifts, not for our own glory, but *for the common good*. Teach us to use what You've given us with the same

grace, compassion, and love that characterize Your own heart. Make us not a collection of individuals, but a community – a workshop

where You are crafting something beautiful. In Jesus' name, **Amen.** †

#### HYMN UMH #384

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

#### "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

<https://youtu.be/gZ257JUPhyl>

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

#### BENEDICTION

Go forth in the Spirit of wisdom and  
understanding, counsel and might, knowledge  
and reverence for the Lord.

May the gifts given to each of you be used for  
the common good, and may the mercy and  
steadfast love of God surround you, so that all  
creation may bless His holy name. Amen.

#### RESPONSE UMH #555

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,

#### "Forward Through the Ages"

<https://youtu.be/tkRVHoelPBY>

move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

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<sup>1,3,5</sup> **Forward Through the Ages**, UMH #555 Words: Frederick Lucian Hosmer ©United Methodist Hymnal. Music: Arthur S. Sullivan ©Public Domain

<sup>2</sup> **God of Grace and God of Glory**, UMH #577, Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick, Composer: John Hughes © Public Domain CCLI#43107

<sup>4</sup>, **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**, UMH #384, Author: Charles Wesley, Tune: Beecher, Composer: John Zundel © Words & Music in the Public Domain

## OUR PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS from January 11, 2026

- The United States of America, other countries around the world, and our leaders
- War-torn areas including Ukraine, Israel & the Middle East
- Americans serving in the armed forces and in dangerous foreign diplomatic posts.
- Our missionary in Cambodia, Clara Mridula Biswas.
- Persecuted Christians
- The United Methodist Church and The Virginia Annual Conference

• Lynn Bell	• Rolland Elliot	• Susan Fletcher
• Laura Moore	• Don Bowling	• Camp Occohannock
• Venezuela and Iraq	• Phyllis Edwards	• Mary Paul Harmon
• The Democratic Republic of the Congo	• Denis Curtis	• Crystal Foti
• Tyler Nickel	• Bobby Wood	• Peggy Byrd
• Drew Edwards	• Alice Denny	• Tom and Claudia Webb
• Brandon Pruitt	• Roy Ballard	• E. A. McMath
• Those affected by Hurricane Melissa	• Linda Beloke	• T.K. Fitchett
• Susan Taylor	• Terry Johnson	• Betty Turlington
• Our Youth Sunday School	• Ron McCabe	• George McMath
• Garnett Kellam	• Alma Reid	• Rosilee Lewis
• Linda Beasley	• Rose Dryfus	• Dianne Nickel
	• Nancy Bisker	• Travel Mercies
	• Ken Spain	• Unspokens

### ***† Special prayers for the family and friends of:***

• Nancy Camden	• Jimmy Fitchett	• Roy Ballard
• James Laws	• Linda Custis	• Dick Jenkins
• Kermit Buggs	• Dottie Milliner	• Victims of gun violence
• Emily Kellam	• Nelda LoFaso	

Please share your joys and concerns with Pastor Jim at : [jimcanody@vaumc.org](mailto:jimcanody@vaumc.org) or call 703-861-2023

Website: <https://www.onleyumc.org/>

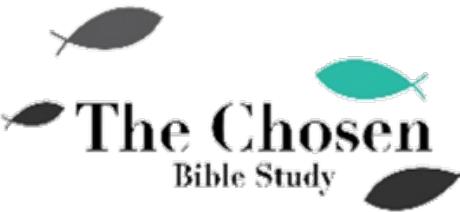
Google Review: <https://g.page/r/CW9SLu50qxK6EBU/review>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OnleyUMC/>

YouTube Channel: <http://bit.ly/OUMC-YouTube>

Join our email chain: [onleymethodist@gmail.com](mailto:onleymethodist@gmail.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

 <b>JANUARY</b> Birthdays	 <b>JANUARY</b> Anniversaries
Judy Bradshaw (Jan. 8) John Annis (Jan. 17)	E.T. Eberts (Jan. 28) Ann Weinheimer (Jan. 30) Gordon Vincent (Jan. 31)
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b> Thursdays @ 1pm	
	<p>Thank you for your dedication to the ministries of Onley UMC! We greatly appreciate your gifts, tithes, and prayers. Your contributions are important to the life and mission of OUMC. Checks, made payable to OUMC should be mailed to: Onley UMC, P. O. Box 216, Onley, VA 23418</p>
<b>COAT CLOSET MISSION!</b>  <p>We continue to accept cash donations as well as coats, hats, scarves, jackets, and gloves during the year. Please either email us at <a href="mailto:jre11@verizon.net">jre11@verizon.net</a> or call 757.710.1524 - leave a message to arrange pickup or drop off.</p> <p>Monetary donations may be sent to Onley UMC, P O Box 216, Onley, VA 23418; please note "coat closet" in the memo section of the check.</p> <p>Remaining Winter 2026 Date:  <b>February 7</b>  <b>from 9am-11am.</b></p>	 <p><b>Youth Group</b>          Meeting @ Epworth this Sunday 4-6 pm</p> <p><b>THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING 2026 CAMP OOTB ANNUAL FUNDRAISER</b></p> <p>Donations are being accepted  <a href="https://bit.ly/OOTBDuckDip26">https://bit.ly/OOTBDuckDip26</a></p> <p><b>Camp Occohannock on the Bay is one of OUR ministries- thank you for your support! <b>WISH LIST:</b></b>          You can help by supporting the camp with donations to their wishlist year round (craft items, snacks, tools, furnishings, activities, etc) found on Amazon at <a href="https://amzn.to/4kKI8qG">https://amzn.to/4kKI8qG</a></p>