



February 2, 2025 – Livestream  
Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Wallace

PRELUDE

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

arr. R. G. te Velde

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, our help in ages past

**People: shelter us in the house of mercy.**

Leader: O God, our help in ages past

**People: guide us to the home of endless love.**

\*OPENING HYMN #117

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

***O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!***

***Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.***

***Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.***

***A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.***

***Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.***

***O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;  
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 16:1-16

<sup>1</sup> Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar. <sup>2</sup> So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal. <sup>3</sup> So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian slave and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)

<sup>4</sup> So Abram slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. <sup>5</sup> Then Sarai said to Abram, “This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she’s pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who’s wrong—you or me!” <sup>6</sup> Abram replied, “Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit.” Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

<sup>7</sup> The messenger of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. <sup>8</sup> The messenger said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress, Sarai,” she replied.

<sup>9</sup> The messenger of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority.” <sup>10</sup> Then he added, “I will give you more descendants than you can count.” <sup>11</sup> And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means ‘God hears’), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. <sup>12</sup> This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives.”

<sup>13</sup> Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, “You are the God who sees me.” She also said, “Have I truly seen the One who sees me?” <sup>14</sup> So that well was named Beer-lahai-roi (which means “well of the Living One who sees me”). It can still be found between Kadesh and Bered. <sup>15</sup> So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael. <sup>16</sup> Abram was eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Hear, O Israel*

C. Courtney  
Voices in Accord

Hear, O Israel. You shall love the Lord with all your heart,  
and soul and strength. The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 21:8-21

<sup>8</sup> When Isaac grew up and was about to be weaned, Abraham prepared a huge feast to celebrate the occasion. <sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw Ishmael—the son of Abraham and her Egyptian servant Hagar—making fun of her son, Isaac. <sup>10</sup> So she turned to Abraham and demanded, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son. He is not going to share the inheritance with my son, Isaac. I won’t have it!”

<sup>11</sup> This upset Abraham very much because Ishmael was his son. <sup>12</sup> But God told Abraham, “Do not be upset over the boy and your servant. Do whatever Sarah tells you, for Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted. <sup>13</sup> But I will also make a nation of the descendants of Hagar’s son because he is your son, too.”

<sup>14</sup> So Abraham got up early the next morning, prepared food and a container of water, and strapped them on Hagar’s shoulders. Then he sent her away with their son, and she wandered aimlessly in the wilderness of Beersheba. <sup>15</sup> When the water was gone, she put the boy in the shade of a bush. <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down by herself about a hundred yards away. “I don’t want to watch the boy die,” she said, as she burst into tears.

<sup>17</sup> But God heard the boy crying, and the messenger of God called to Hagar from heaven, “Hagar, what’s wrong? Do not be afraid! God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. <sup>18</sup> Go to him and comfort him, for I will make a great nation from his descendants.” <sup>19</sup> Then God opened Hagar’s eyes, and she saw a well full of water. She quickly filled her water container and gave the boy a drink. <sup>20</sup> And God was with the boy as he grew up in the wilderness. He became a skillful archer, <sup>21</sup> and he settled in the wilderness of Paran. His mother arranged for him to marry a woman from the land of Egypt.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN #130

*God Will Take Care of You*

***Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;  
beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.***

***Refrain: God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;  
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.***

***Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;  
when dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. [Refrain]***

***All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you;  
nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. [Refrain]***

***No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;  
lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you. [Refrain]***

## PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Brandon Wallace

## INVITATION, CONFESSION AND PARDON

Leader: Mercy. We stand in need of God's mercy  
to forgive our sins and to remove our shame.  
Let us open our hearts to confess  
what we have broken  
and to surrender what we cannot fix  
to the God who offers mercy to all:

**People: O God, we confess that  
we have refused your love and rejected your help.  
We have hurt others with our words and actions.  
We have ignored the cry of the oppressed.  
Forgive us.  
Free us.  
Cleanse us.  
Heal us.**

Leader: With the arms of Jesus,  
God embraces us with the grace  
that pardons and makes us whole.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**People: Amen.**

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Be Not Afraid*

C. Courtney

Be not afraid: for I have redeemed you; be not afraid: I have called you by name.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you;  
when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed;  
you are mine, you are precious in my sight.

My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
when you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you;  
when you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed;  
you are mine, you are precious in my sight.

\*DOXOLOGY #94

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Blessed are you, strong and faithful God.

All your works, the height and the depth,  
echo the silent music of your praise....

So now, with all the powers of heaven and earth,  
we sing the ageless hymn of your glory:

**People: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

Leader: All Holy God, how wonderful is the work of your hands....

Gracious God, as we offer you our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we commemorate Jesus, your Son.

Death could not bind him, for you raised him up in the Spirit of holiness  
and exalted him as Lord of creation:

**People: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.***

Leader: Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us  
and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine....

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER #2278

\*BREAKING THE BREAD

RECEIVING THE BLESSING

*As persons are sharing the bread and cup in the sanctuary, extend your hands to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to receive communion from today's service please contact the church to schedule for a pastor to bring it to your home this week, [nricketts@northchurchindy.com](mailto:nricketts@northchurchindy.com)*

COMMUNION HYMNS

#494

*Kum Ba Yah*

***Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah. Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah. Oh, Lord, kum ba yah!***

***Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah. Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah.  
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah. Oh,, Lord, kum ba yah!***

***Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah. Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah.  
Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah. Oh, Lord, kum ba yah!***

***Someone needs you, Lord, kum ba yah. Someone needs you, Lord, kum ba yah.  
Someone needs you, Lord, kum ba yah. Oh, Lord, kum ba yah!***

***Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah. Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah.  
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah. Oh, Lord, kum ba yah!***

#474

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

v. 1-2

***Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:***

***Refrain: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

***When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone,  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall: [Refrain]***

PRAYER

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #474

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

v. 3

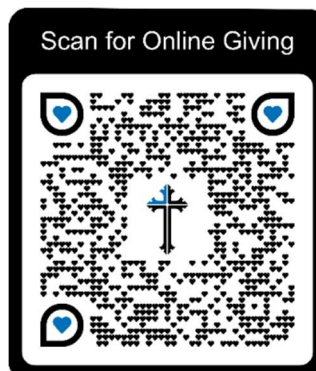
***When the darkness appears and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.***

\*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

arr. D. Cherwien



*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and in celebration of the 82nd birthday of Jack Leonard (February 6) and in memory of his parents, Adolphe and Emma Lee, by Jacqueline Blackwell Leonard.*

**Upcoming Events:**

February 9, Youth Group Roller Skating, 3:00 – 5:00pm

Thank you to those who have contributed to the 2025  
Harvesting Hope campaign as of January 30!



**This week's worship  
leaders:**

Darren Cushman Wood

*Senior Pastor*

Brandon Wallace

*Minister of Christian Education*

John Hague, James Horton &

Allen McCormack

*Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon

*Music Director*

Heather Hinton

*Organist*