



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

Pre-Service Music

Noah Davis

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Nathaniel Asperger

Mission Point

Prelude

Noah Davis

Choir Introit

CTC Choir

Call to Worship

Liturgist

Leader: Before the foundation of the world,

All: God destined us for love.

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,

All: God adopted us into her own family.

Leader: From the farthest edges of the earth,

All: God shepherds their family home.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist

Eternal Word, you loved us into being,
and your love sustains us still.

Shepherd us toward your abundant life;
teach us to tend to the earth until it blooms.

And, when time has reached its fullness,
gather us into yourself so that, with you,
we may nestle close to the heart of Parent God. **Amen.**

* Opening Hymn

"Shall We Gather at the River" 375 GTG

Congregation

Call to Confession

Liturgist

Who is worthy to stand before God?

None but Christ alone.

The Son of God came in the flesh of a human body
to live among us.

It is Christ who redeems us,
gathering our tears and our fears,
redeeming each and every one.

With this confidence let us confess
our sin before God and one another.



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

*January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!*

*** Prayer of Confession**

Congregation

**Gather us,
your children who run and hide,
ashamed, afraid, apathetic.
We trade your goodness for ashes.
We trade your peace for control.
We trade your promise for certainty.
Gather us to you
and return us to your abundant mercy;
may it flow over us,
renewing our weary souls.**

*** Time of Silence for Personal Prayers of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Liturgist

The light of all life
and the breath of all creation claims you,
calling you "good" from the very beginning, very good.
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

***Responding to Grace**

"Gloria Patri" #581 GTG

Congregation

Time With Young Disciples

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist

O God,
through your mighty acts
we receive grace upon grace.
From your fullness,
feed us with your life-giving Word,
that our lives, like bread,
may feed a hungry world. **Amen.**



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

1st Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Tammy Charnowski

The Lord says,

"Sing for joy because the people of Jacob are blessed.

Shout because the Lord has made them the greatest nation.

Make your praises heard.

Say, 'Lord, save your people.

Save the people who are left alive in Israel.'

I will bring them from the land of the north.

I will gather them from one end of the earth to the other.

Even those who are blind and those who can't walk
will be among them.

Pregnant women and women having their babies
will be among them also.

Many of them will return.

Their eyes will be filled with tears as they come.

They will pray as I bring them back.

I will lead them beside streams of water.

I will lead them on a level path
where they will not trip or fall.

I am Israel's father.

And Ephraim is my oldest son.

"Listen to my message, you nations.

Announce it on shores far away.

Say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather them.

He will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'

I will set the people of Jacob free.

I will save them from those who are stronger than they are.

They will come and shout for joy on Mount Zion.

They will be joyful because of everything I give them.

I give them grain, olive oil and fresh wine.

I give them the young animals in their flocks and herds.

Israel will be like a garden that has plenty of water.

And they will not be sad anymore.

Then young women will dance and be glad.

And so will the men, young and old alike.



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

I will turn their mourning into gladness.

I will comfort them.

And I will give them joy instead of sorrow.

I will satisfy the priests. I will give them more than enough.

And my people will be filled with the good things I give them,"
announces the Lord.

2nd Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

Tammy Charnowski

Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Those blessings come from the heavenly world. They belong to us because we belong to Christ. God chose us to belong to Christ before the world was created. He chose us to be holy and without blame in his eyes. He loved us. So, he decided long ago to adopt us. He adopted us as his children with all the rights children have. He did it because of what Jesus Christ has done. It pleased God to do it. All those things bring praise to his glorious grace. God freely gave us his grace because of the One he loves. We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Because he bled and died our sins have been forgiven. We have been set free because God's grace is so rich. He poured his grace on us. By giving us great wisdom and understanding, he showed us the mystery of his plan. It was in keeping with what he wanted to do. It was what he had planned through Christ. It will all come about when history has been completed. God will then bring together all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

We were also chosen to belong to him. God decided to choose us long ago in keeping with his plan. He works out everything to fit his plan and purpose. We were the first to put our hope in Christ. We were chosen to bring praise to his glory. You also became believers in Christ. That happened when you heard the message of truth. It was the good news about how you could be saved. When you believed, he stamped you with an official mark. That official mark is the Holy Spirit that he promised. The Spirit marks us as God's own. We can now be sure that someday we will receive all that God has promised. That will happen after God sets all his people completely free. All these things will bring praise to his glory. This is The Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be To God.**

Choir Anthem

CTC Choir

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-18

In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him. Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not overcome the light.



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

There was a man sent from God. His name was John. He came to be a witness about that light. He was a witness so that all people might believe. John himself was not the light. He came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. The Word was in the world. And the world was made through him. But the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him. Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does.

The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth.

John was a witness about the Word. John cried out and said, "This was the one I was talking about. I said, 'He who comes after me is more important than I am. He is more important because he existed before I was born.'" God is full of grace. From him we have all received grace in place of the grace already given. In the past, God gave us grace through the law of Moses. Now, grace and truth come to us through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the One and Only is God and is at the Father's side. The one at the Father's side has shown us what God is like. This is The Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be To God.**

Sermon

"Joy and Destiny"

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Music Meditation

Noah Davis

* Sermon Hymn

"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom" 174 GTG
Sung to Tune #143 GTG

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

**The one sufficient revelation of God
is Jesus Christ,
the Word of God incarnate,
to whom the Holy Spirit
bears unique and authoritative witness
through the Holy Scriptures,
which are received and obeyed
as the word of God written.**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27



COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Invitation to the Table Prayer of Great Thanksgiving
The Words of Blessing for the Bread and the Cup
The Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

*** Doxology**

Congregation

*** Closing Hymn**

"Joy to the World" 134 GTG

Congregation

*** Charge, Benediction**

Rev. Nathaniel Asperger

Postlude

"Refrain – Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Noah Davis


2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH



January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH


375 Shall We Gather at the River



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.



Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;



gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.



A Baptist pastor wrote this hymn while seated at his parlor organ. Created as an alternative to gloomy "river of death" hymns, it is a celebration of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1 KJV).

TEXT and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1864

HANSON PLACE
8.7.8.7 with refrain

**All rights reserved. Reprinted
under One License #736146-A**

2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

GLORIA

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

**All rights reserved. Reprinted
under One License #736146-A**

2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

**Sung to the
Tune-#143
GTG**

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom 174

1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who

earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,

for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -

path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

**All rights reserved. Reprinted
under One License #736146-A**

Drawing on numerous scriptural images of Wisdom (Greek: *Sophia*), especially in Proverbs, this text offers an alternative perspective on Trinitarian theology. The Wisdom tradition has played a role in Christian mysticism for centuries, as witnessed by the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1993
MUSIC: Donna Kasbohm, 1995
Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press
Music © 1997 The Pilgrim Press

MADELEINE
8.7.8.7.8.7

2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

**All rights reserved. Reprinted
under One License #736146-A**

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTI OCH
CM with repeat
(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)


2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Happy New Year!

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

**All rights reserved. Reprinted
under One License #736146-A**