

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 21st, 2024

9:30 am



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Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/GoodSoilLutheranMinistries)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Bulletin Key

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation
Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant
† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
**We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

† Gathering Hymn: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy- ELW 588

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
 like the wideness of the sea;
 there's a kindness in God's justice
 which is more than liberty.
 There is no place where earth's sorrows
 are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is no place where earth's failings
 have such kindly judgment giv'n.

2 There is welcome for the sinner,
 and a promised grace made good;
 there is mercy with the Savior;
 there is healing in his blood.
 There is grace enough for thousands
 of new worlds as great as this;
 there is room for fresh creations
 in that upper home of bliss.

3 For the love of God is broader
 than the measures of our mind;
 and the heart of the Eternal
 is most wonderfully kind.
 But we make this love too narrow
 by false limits of our own;
 and we magnify its strictness
 with a zeal God will not own.

4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;

it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2 Corinth. to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality signifying trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

To put this reading into context:

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question, "On whom should God have mercy?"

Hear now the reading.

¹The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed God’s mind about the calamity that God had said God would bring upon them; and God did not do it.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia – ELW 174



Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

To put this gospel reading into context:

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

The holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his

brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Children grade 1 and younger are invited to step out with one of our Sunday School teachers to join the “learn and grow in faith” class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace. Sunday School classes for all children (nursery school – grade 6) meet after worship.

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:

When have you felt called by the Holy Spirit to something in your life? How do you serve God through this calling?

† Hymn of the Day: How Clear is Our Vocation - ELW 580 v 1, 2, 4

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all,
and will not let us fall.

2 But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind

and life itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.

- 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon,
all you endeavored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community and
around the
world. The
prayers are also
responsive,
emphasizing our
own
participation.*

*Each petition
addresses a
different topic,
often in the same
pattern:*

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and
leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith
community
+ The great
cloud of
witnesses/those*

† Prayers of Intercession

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain. We pray for especially, Diane, Helen, Carl, Pam, Tanya, family and friends of Betty, friends and family of Bernadette, Joe, Frank & Vicki, Willie, Bill, Char, Rich, Jeanette, Archer, Ruth, Steve, Tom, family and friends of Janet, Dick,

now resting with God

Jeanette, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine... and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who holds the saints eternally, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using the QR code to the right.



Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.

The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful Lord - ELW 184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† Offering Prayer

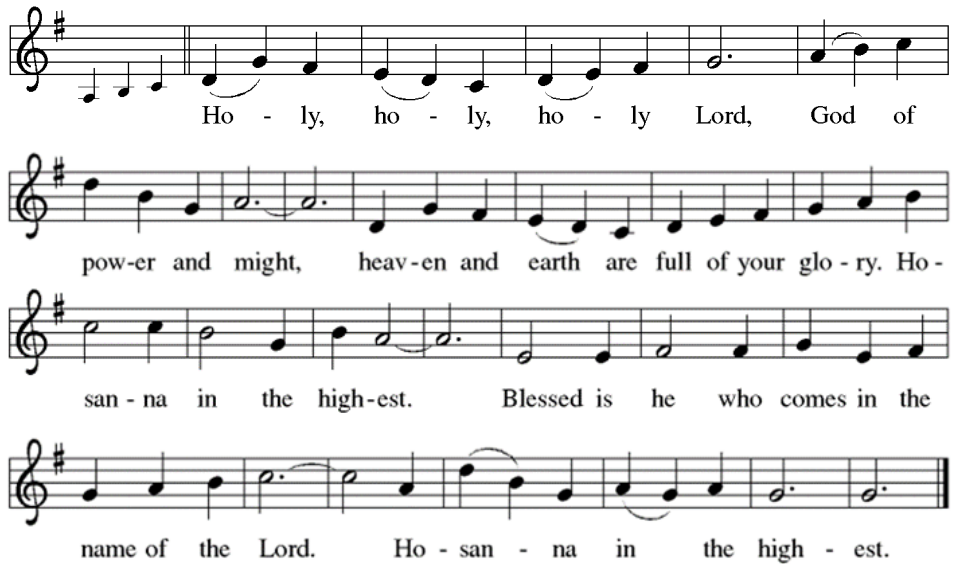
Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us: **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 and ever.**
Amen.

† Invitation to the Table

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center.

Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light - ELW 815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Text © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

Communion Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story - ELW 661

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,

because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

Amen.

† Blessing of the RIC Committee

Abby Alusheff (chair), Mandy Forshey, William Eversole, Amanda
Inman, Chuck Mosberger, Kirsten Reading, and Pastor Marissa

*Reconciling In Christ = a process/training churches can go through to
earn a designation as a safe and welcoming faith community for*

LGBTQIA+ and people of color. Good Soil will be engaging that process with bible studies, learning opportunities, small group discussions, and other congregational activities in 2024. Please be holding team members in your prayers along with our congregation as we continue this journey together. More information at www.reconcilingworks.org

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† Blessing

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
‡ bless you and remain with you always.
Amen.

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world to
follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: I Come With Joy - ELW 482

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,

is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The dismissal is based on Good Soil's Purpose Statement.

† **Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee fellowship following worship!

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Joe Lanter	Reader: Jennifer Krankowski
Ushers: Sharon Hollowell & Larry Jacobson	Counters: Barbara Munch & Larry Jacobson
Online Usher: Kim Wylie	Acolyte: Isaac Krankowski



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Jan 21st, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Diane Alusheff, Helen Andrews, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Joe Gray, Frank and Vicki, family and friends of Betty Holcomb, friends and family of Bernadette Konn, Willie Lee, Bill Leek, Char Mattson, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Tom Rospert, family and friends of Janet Saghy, Dick Schluep, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India, and the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine.

For those celebrating their birthday: Cadence Mattson (1/21), Ava Wahl (1/21), Jerad Williamson (1/21), and Gloria Syverson (1/27).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Alin Sburlea (1/24).

New Member Welcome 1/28- During worship on Sunday, Jan 28, we will officially welcome anyone who wishes to become a member of Good Soil! Please submit new member form, photo, & introduction paragraph to admin@goodsoillutheran.org by Sun, Jan 21 (TODAY). All new members (and anyone interested) are invited to attend the new members orientation adult forum after worship.

Altar Care Rotations- We are working to set up two altar care rotations: 1) to prepare/provide communion bread (monthly), and 2) to set up the communion elements before worship each Sunday (weekly). Serving on the altar care team is a great way to serve God and help people encounter a tangible experience of God's love during worship through communion. If you'd like to participate, email admin@goodsoillutheran.org.

Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code. Please note: The physical flower list on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted to reschedule.



Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed! - Please consider volunteering to host and/or provide healthy snacks or baked goods. Volunteers can sign-up using the Ministry

Scheduler Pro platform, the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the Lounge, or by contacting the church office. Coffee volunteers aren't expected to provide snacks or baked goods but can if they would like. Anyone can donate ready to serve healthy snacks or baked goods. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway or the QR code to the left.

Newsletter- Want to keep up with the latest Good Soil news or share the e-news with a friend? Sign up for or share our newsletter *Seeds* with this QR code to the right or this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp>



Save the Date: Centering Prayer Training, 2/17 9am-12pm at Good Soil: Centering prayer is a method of silent prayer in which we experience the gift of God's presence with us. It's a method of prayer that reaches back to the early days of Christianity. Centering prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with him. [Dee Willis](#) will lead a six-week introduction to this kind of prayer starting with a three-hour training on February 17, 9am-noon, followed by practice sessions on Wednesday evenings leading up to Easter week. This is an excellent opportunity to go deeper spiritually, further develop your spiritual practice of prayer, and grow in your relationship with Christ this Lenten season. RSVP to admin@goodsoillutheran.org.

This February Good Soil's RIC Team Invites you to Celebrate Black History Month: Please Join Us for Our First Special Lunch & Learn Movie and Discussion Sunday, February 4, Immediately After Worship GREEN BOOK INSPIRED BY A TRUE FRIENDSHIP Two men from polar opposite backgrounds with wildly contrasting personalities get thrown together under unusual circumstances. They learn from each other, change each other for the better and discover that they're not so different after all. Please RSVP Church Office Email: admin@goodsoillutheran.org Watch for our second special Lunch & Learn Movie and Discussion on Sunday, February 25. More information to come.

Gather Together will host a pre-Lenten evening gathering on Tuesday January 30th from 7-8:30 PM at Bethany English Lutheran Church (15460 Triskett Rd, Cleveland). During this time, we will use prayer, devotions, readings, and small group discussions to contemplate how we engage with the Lenten season in a deeper way. While RSVPs are not required, we encourage any who plan to attend to drop a note to Mary Washburn by call, text, or email: 210-241-8455, mary.washburn@outlook.com. Gather Together" is a self-organized young adult group focused on building affirming community through meaningful engagement with one another, with God, and with our wider world.

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
Sun, Jan 21	In-Person and Livestream Worship & RIC Team Blessing Adult Forum: New Member Orientation	9:30 am 10:30 am
Sun, Jan 28	In-Person and Livestream Worship Welcome of New Members during worship	9:30 am
Tue, Jan 30	20's & 30's Gather Together Pre-Lenten Gathering	7:00 pm
Sun, Feb 4	In-Person and Livestream Worship Lunch and Movie Discussion: Green Book	9:30 am 11:00 am
Sun, Feb 11	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday	9:30 am
Wed, Feb 14	Ash Wednesday Worship	6:30 pm
Sat, Feb 17	Centering Prayer Training	9:00 am
Sun, Feb 18	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Mon, Feb 19	<i>Presidents' Day (Church Office Closed)</i>	
Sun, Feb 25	In-Person and Livestream Worship Lunch and Movie Discussion: Movie TBD	9:30 am 11:00 am

