

## Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

### February 8, 2026

**GATHERING:** *God invites us to enter His presence*

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Jim Fox*

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.  
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.  
May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

—Psalm 72:1-5, NRSV

#### INVOCATION

*Jim Fox*

Perfect Light of revelation,  
as you shone in the life of Jesus,  
whose Epiphany we celebrate,  
so shine in us and through us,  
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,  
enlightening all creation  
with deeds of justice and mercy. **Amen.**

#### OPENING HYMN 8      *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty*

**CONFESSING:** *God invites us to be honest with Him*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

*Jim Fox*

We cannot come before God  
unless we are first honest with ourselves  
about who we are,  
about the mistakes we make,  
and about how well or poorly we care for others.  
In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Jim Fox*

God of grace,  
you have given us Jesus,

the light of the world,  
but we choose darkness  
and cling to things that hide the brightness of your love.  
Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life.  
Baptize us with your Spirit,  
that, forgiven and renewed,  
we may preach your Word to the nations  
and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ,  
our Lord and our light forever. **Amen.**

## TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSON

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Jim Fox*

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.  
O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.  
It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

—Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8, NRSV

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

*All: Thanks be to God*

### 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.  
A-men, A-men*

### OFFERING: Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

**INVITATION** With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy. With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God.

### OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

### DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, you have given us life,  
a place to live in,  
and people to live with.  
Open our eyes to each other  
and to all our brothers and sisters,  
especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated.  
Make us humble enough to help and comfort them,  
so that your love and justice and peace may come to them.  
We make bold to consecrate ourselves and our gifts  
to you and to the service of others,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You  
All: And also with you*

## PREPARATION HYMN 203 *And Can It Be?*

**PROCLAIMING:** *God speaks to us through His Work*

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God,  
by your Word and Spirit,  
that in your light we may see light,  
in your truth find freedom,  
and in your will discover your peace,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING *Ephesians 2:11-22*

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

**SERMON** *“Together In and For God”*  
Rev. Dan Stewart

 HYMN OF RESPONSE 511     *Now I Belong to Jesus*

RESPONDING: *We respond to God's Word*

 PROFESSION OF FAITH (In Unison)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,  
the firstborn of all creation;  
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,  
things visible and invisible.  
All things have been created through him and for him.  
He himself is before all things,  
and in him all things hold together.  
He is the head of the body, the church;  
he is the beginning,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
so that he might come to have first place in everything.  
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace through the blood of his cross.

—from Colossians 1:15-20, NRSV

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O Jesus, light of the world,  
come into the dark places of this earth.  
You bring a light from God that only you can shed.  
Light eternal, your light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness does not overcome it.  
We bring to you the darkness of our world  
in war, starvation, cruelty, and exploitation.  
We bring to you the darkness of our earth,  
damaged and defaced by pollution.  
We bring to you the darkness of our nation,  
beset with conflict of race and class, religion and politics.  
We bring to you the darkness of our relationships,  
people not looking, not speaking, not listening, not forgiving.  
We bring to you the darkness of our own souls,  
hidden closets we have not visited or cleaned out for years.  
O Jesus, light of the world, be a morning star above for us,  
a radiance within, the shining all around that lets us live in love.  
Only then shall we be reflectors of your brightness  
and give glory to God in heaven. **Amen.**

COMMISSIONING: *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

 COMMISSION HYMN 382     *Be Thou My Vision*

**BENEDICTION & BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

 *Please stand if you are able.*