

**Sunday February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "We Shall Overcome" Words and Music: African American Spiritual Arr. William Farley Smith
Soprano Nancy Quinn

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,

We praise you in song and in prayer.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,

We worship you in our living and in our discipleship.

With voices united our praises we offer.

Hymn VU 82 "A Light Is Gleaming" Words and Music: Linnea Good, 1992, © 1992 Borealis Music.
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A light is gleaming,
spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,
our memories and tears.

A light is gleaming,
spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.

When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.

It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:

“God’s light will ever stay.”

A light is gleaming,
spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God’s radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.

He showed us things we hadn’t seen.

Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be our sign:

A light is gleaming,
spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God’s radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.

So let us live in the brightness God has giv’n,
and let us rise to see the dawn.

We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze,
warming all our days.

A light is gleaming,
spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God’s radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Holy one, you call us to be salt – to be an agent of healing, and to make life more piquant: more stimulating, more exciting, more full, more worthwhile. You call us to be salt of the earth – to be kind, reliable, honest, generous, forgiving, gracious, loving. You call us to be worth our salt – to be competent Christians, sharing the good news of your grace with all whom we meet. Grant us the courage, the imagination, the energy we need to be all that you call us to be. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Anthem: “How Beautiful Are the Feet” George Frederick Handel, Messiah. Soprano Nancy Quinn

A New Creed VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 325 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" Words: Latin 7th C, trans. John Mason Neale, 1851.
Music: Henry Purcell, ca. 1682; adapt. Ernest Hawkins, 1842; desc. © 1974 W. Herbert Belyea.
Words and Music in the Public Domain. CCLI 11438349

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help forever,
and its confidence alone.

To this temple where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with your faithful lovingkindness
hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction
shed within its walls always.

Here bestow on all your servants
what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you forever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory,
while unending ages run.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 112

The just shall trust in God alone.

Blessed are those who fear God,
who greatly delight in God's commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land,
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**Riches and plenty shall be in their house,
their righteousness enduring forever.**

They are a light in the darkness for the upright,
being gracious, compassionate and just.

**It goes well with those who lend generously,
who conduct their affairs with justice.**

The just shall trust in God alone.

For the righteous will never be shaken;
they will be kept in remembrance forever.

**They will not live in fear of bad news;
with resolute heart they trust in God.**

Their heart is steady, they do not fear;
in the end they will see their enemies' downfall.

**They distribute freely to the poor,
their righteousness enduring forever;
they will hold up their heads in honour.**

The just shall trust in God alone.

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20 Salt and Light / The Law and the Prophets

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The other lectionary readings for this week are: Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)

Sermon: “Be a Lucifer”

Hymn VU 371 “Open My Eyes, That I May See” Words and Music: Clara H. Scott, 1895.
Words and Music in the Public Domain.

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready,
my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready,
my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready,
my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Because of you we provide a safe place to ask questions, recruit and equip volunteers to live and to lead in the Way of Jesus, care for those living in the margins in our community and in our world, delve into questions of faith and belief, encounter God in worship, and so much more. Our tithes and offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn: "Star of Wonder" Words: unknown. Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1857; in the Public Domain.

Star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Grant us God, the grace of giving
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, accept and bless these offerings that they may loose the bonds of injustice, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, and bind up the brokenhearted, in other words, may they bring about justice for all. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God of community, Creator, Christ, and Spirit; One.

Through your Holy Spirit you become one with us.

Through Christ you call us to be one with you and with one another.

We are gathered here as one body, and as one we lift our prayers to you.

By your Holy Spirit inspire your church with power, unity and peace. May it maintain the diversity of over 30,000 denominations and, for the sake of the world, may it act as one.

Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship. May we truly follow you in thought word and deed, that our lives may conform to the life of your Son and may the lives we live be a witness to your love and grace for all the world.

We pray for the peoples of this world, brothers and sisters all, regardless of nationality, religion, race or any other thing that we use to divide one family into many. This week we pray especially for the peoples of Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and Vatican City.

We pray for this living and life giving creation in which we live and move and have our being. For the sake of land, sea, and sky; for fish, fowl, and all that moves upon the surface of this world may we be good stewards of your Creation. May we live with respect in it and use your gifts with reverence.

Compassionate God, you sent your son, our Saviour, to heal the broken-hearted, cure the lame, give sight to the blind, and heal the sick, for you know that when one of us suffers we are all affected. We pray for those who mourn a loss; especially we think of the friends and family of Butch Hoxar, and for those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially we bring to mind Arnold, Cindy, Gloria, Julie, Rob and their loved ones and their caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Restore all for whom we pray that they and we may be made whole.

All this we pray in the name of the one who came to restore us to right relationship with you, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, and who taught us how 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,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 601 "The Church of Christ in Every Age" Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1969.

Music: James William Elliott, 1874. Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.

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The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all without reserve
and spread Christ's liberating word.

Commissioning and Benediction

Jesus calls us the salt of the earth,
and reminds us of our calling to shine God's light in this world's darkness.
As our worship draws to an end, and our ministry starts afresh, let us go

Seeking to deepen our relationship with God,

Living our discipleship boldly,

Daring to work for justice, and to resist evil in all its forms.

Amen!

Sung Response: VU 886 "Arise, Shine" Refrain Music: Lawrence M. Probes, 1980.

Words: Public Domain. Refrain Music© 1989 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.
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Arise, be clothed in the light.

Arise, be clothed in the light.

Your light has come.

Your light has come.

Hallelujah.

Postlude: "Amazing Grace" Inspired by Sibelius's *Romance*. Virginia Harmony Arr. Faye Lopez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 15th following worship.

February is Black History Month: Here from the Beginning is an exhibition about the history of The United Church of Canada from the perspective of Black peoples in the church. The exhibition will be shown at First – St. Andrew's United Church in London featuring a performance of the London Kids Community Gospel Choir on February 28 at 6 p.m., followed by a reception. (The exhibition will be open at other times yet to be determined between February 25 and March 4. Exact dates and times TBA. Watch the First – St. Andrew's website for more information)

A Pancake Supper will be held at St. Peter's Anglican Church on Tuesday, February 17th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. A freewill offering in support of community outreach will be taken.

UNJPPI (United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel) Presents

A series of nine 90-minute illustrated talks (one hour talk plus 30 minutes Q/A) that traces Zionist /Israeli efforts to occupy historic Palestine, dispossess the Palestinian inhabitants, and deny them human rights and self determination. The talks are introductory and non-academic, and no prior knowledge of the history of Palestine / Israel is necessary.

When: Thursdays from 7:00– 8.30 pm (Eastern) January 15 to March 12, 2026.

To Register, go to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSey6TNY9JwI7VcjUrDaaPxMuyBbhS0zj-pzdigTolTojDEUHA/viewform>

Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator is a six part video series this Lent exploring food, faith, and the power of invitation, and is hosted by the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath. The series debuts with a Shrove Tuesday pancake feast in the Moderator's home kitchen on February 17, with a new episode following each Sunday through Lent, concluding with a special Easter message. Videos will be posted on the United Church of Canada's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada>

Lenten Study: As we journey toward Lent, the new Lenten devotional [*Bless, Break, Share: Recipes for Faithful Living*](#) invites you to a spiritual practice of reflecting on food and hunger. What do you hunger for? How do you feed others? What feeds your soul? Whether reflecting individually or in a group, this resource helps us discover how every meal provides an opportunity to grow in faith. To deepen your experience, join Rev. Dr. Christine Jerrett for a six-week [online study on CHURCHx](#), on Tuesdays (2:00–3:00 p.m. ET), beginning February 24, focusing on themes of invitation, justice, and solidarity.

Participants receive a 15% discount on the book, with additional bulk savings available for congregational study groups. [Visit the United Church Bookstore to order your copy](#) or head to [CHURCHx to register for the series](#) today!

The World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Anglican Church. All are welcome.

Lectionary Readings:

Sunday, February 15, Transfiguration

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 OR Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9