

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC *Suite for Organ, Air* Florence Price

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CENTERING SILENCE The Rev. Dr. James Butler

* UNISON INTROIT (Hymn 17, v. 4)

*Sing praises now, God's people; your gift of speech employ
To praise the Lord, your maker, with thankfulness and joy!
Sing with the whole creation, a cosmic chorus, raise.
To God alone be glory and everlasting praise!*

* GREETING AND OPENING RESPONSES

Laura VanDale

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness."

Jesus also said, "You are the light of the world; let your light shine before others, so that they will see your good works and give glory to God."

* HYMN 666

"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beloved in Christ: God is with us!

We are not alone!

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION

Gracious God, when we ask for your righteous judgment against others but do not confess our own sins, forgive us, and help us to repent and become humble. When we worship with our lips but dishonor your name with our actions, forgive us and set us free to repent and live with integrity. When we pray for the end of suffering but do not practice compassion and generosity, forgive us, and help us to become willing and active agents of Jesus Christ, the healer and reconciler. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 418, v. 3)

*O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me.
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.
Come home, come home! You who are weary come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling "O sinner, come home."*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON

I Corinthians 2:1-5

(Pew Bible, N.T. p.166)

ANTHEM

We Shall Walk Through the Valley African-American Spiritual

Arr. Moses Hogan

We shall walk in peace. We shall walk through the valley in peace. For Jesus Himself will be our leader. Walk through the valley in peace. We will meet our loved ones there. For Jesus Himself will be our leader. There will be no more trials there. For Jesus Himself will be our leader. We shall walk in peace.

* GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 5:17-20

(Pew Bible, N.T. p.4)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND DEPARTING SONG

Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones, to him, belong. We are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.

SERMON

"A Powerful Problem"

Dr. Butler

"I came to you in weakness, fear, and trembling..."

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS (Session Class of 2029)

To be ordained and installed: Peter Cebull and Sean Kennedy

To be installed (previously ordained): Susan Crane and Matt Greif

HYMN 691

“Lord, When I Came Into This Life”

LAND OF REST

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Nobody Knows de Trouble I’ve Seen

Negro Spiritual

Arr. Harry Thacker Burleigh

Lucie Freeman, mezzo-soprano

Nobody knows de trouble I’ve seen, nobody knows but Jesus. Nobody knows de trouble I’ve seen, Glory hallelujah! Sometimes I’m up sometimes I’m down. Oh yes, Lord! Sometimes I’m almost to de ground. Oh yes, Lord! If you get there before I do. Oh yes, Lord! Tell all-a-my friends I’m coming too. Oh yes, Lord!

*** DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING**

*** HYMN 761**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** DEPARTING MUSIC**

Sonata II, Fuga

Felix Mendelssohn

The people may depart or remain seated while the Departing Music is played.

Our Mission

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship, service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor

The Revs. Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates

Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music

Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry



SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

10 a.m.
