



**You are
the light
of the
world.**

Matthew 5:14

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 5, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Holy One, earth and heaven reverberate with your glory, and humans and angels alike sing your praises. Open our minds to your breathtaking work in the world, even as you call to us to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, our mentor and savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Koppången
Jonathan Dimmock

Per-Erik Moraeus
arr. J. Dimmock

CHORAL INTROIT

Let Us Come Before His Presence
Chancel Choir

Jenkins

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. John White

One: Jesus calls us to be the light of the world –

ALL: *To loose the bonds of injustice, open the eyes that are blind, and deliver from prison those who sit in darkness.*

One: God invites us to be a light to the nations –

ALL: *To carry God's salvation to the ends of the earth.*

One: The Holy Spirit dwells in us, challenging us and giving us strength to do God's work.

ALL: *May our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 702 *Christ Be Beside Me*

BUNESSAN

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.

Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ into our world.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (inspired by Colossians 3:1) *Rev. Courtney Bowen*

One: Our God is a God of grace and mercy and love; know that our sins have been forgiven.
May we be strengthened in all goodness. Since we have been raised with Christ,
let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

ALL: *Thanks be to God; Alleluia! Amen.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447** *We Are Forgiven* WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** *Rev. Courtney Bowen*

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Just As I Am
Chancel Choir

Chilcott

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

BICENTENNIAL MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Nora Alexander + Ceil Cowles

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

***HYMN: 462** *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Proverbs 3:5-8 (pg. 586)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Matthew 5:14-16 (pg. 4)*

Rev. John White

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word
of the Lord endures forever. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Phototropism

Rev. John White

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*From A Brief Statement of Faith*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OFFERTORY

Steal Away to Jesus

Joe Utterback

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SENDING

***HYMN: 79** *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

TEMPLE OF PEACE

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. John White

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord Be with You

Sleeth

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Suite Gothique: Toccata

Léon Boëllmann

Jonathan Dimmock