



February 8, 2026 – Livestream
Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jill Moffett

RECOGNITION OF FOUNDING MEMBERS

Sue Strickland Hirschman, Joan Esterline Lafuze, and Marcia Lurie

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

arr. H. Willan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and walk the journey of faith with all who hunger for God.

People: Bread of Heaven feed us now.

Leader: Come and find the peace of Christ who conquers all our fears.

People: Strong Deliverer, be our strength and shield.

Leader: Come and sing the Spirit's song who leads us into freedom.

People: Songs of praises we give to you. O Great God, lead us on.

*OPENING HYMN #127

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;

feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;

let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;

be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;

death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;

I will ever give to thee.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, with endless mercy

you receive the prayers of all who call upon you.

By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do,

and give us the grace and power to do them,

through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sing a new song. Sing to the Lord a new song.
 For the word of the Lord is right and true, and God's work is done in faithfulness.
 The Lord loves righteousness and justice.
 The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a new song, a new song.
 Our soul waits for the Lord, our help and our shield.
 For our heart rejoices in God because we trust in God's Holy name.
 May Your unfailing kindness be upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You. Amen

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #833

Psalm 112

Leader: Praise the Lord.
 Blessed are those who fear the Lord,
 who greatly delight in God's commandments!

**People: Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
 the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Leader: Wealth and riches are in their houses,
 and their righteousness endures for ever.

**People: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
 they are gracious, merciful and righteous.**

Leader: It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
 who conduct their affairs with justice.

**People: For the righteous will never be moved;
 they will be remembered for ever.**

Leader: They are not afraid of evil tidings;
 their hearts are firm, trusting in the Lord.

**People: When they see their adversaries,
 their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid.**

Leader: They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
 their righteousness endures for ever;
 their horn is exalted in honor.

**People: The wicked see it and are angry;
 they gnash their teeth and melt away;
 the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Curtis Hurley

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
 Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.
² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
 as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
 they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.
³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
 Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you;

the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;

you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #332

Spirit of Faith, Come Down

***Spirit of faith, come down, reveal the things of God,
and make to us the God-head known, and witness with the blood.***

***'Tis thine the blood to apply and give us eyes to see,
who did for every sinner die hath surely died for me.***

***No one can truly say that Jesus is the Lord,
unless thou take the veil away and breathe the living Word.
Then, only then, we feel our interest in his blood,
and cry with joy unspeakable, "Thou art my Lord, my God!"***

***O that the world might know the all atoning Lamb!
Spirit of faith, descend and show the virtue of his name;
the grace which all may find, the saving power, impart,
and testify to humankind, and speak in every heart.***

***Inspire the living faith (which whosoe'er receive,
the witness in themselves they have and consciously believe),
the faith that conquers all, and doth the mountain move,
and saves whoe'er on Jesus call, and perfects them in love.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jill Moffett

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2013 (refrain)

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Where Shall Wisdom be Found?

W. Boyce

And unto Man God said, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
And to depart from evil is understanding."

*DOXOLOGY #94

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

SECOND LESSON

I Corinthians 2:1-12

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love the Lord"—

¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Crucified Spirit

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #2166

Christ Beside Me

***Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me—King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me—never to part.***

***Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me—shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising—light of my life.***

***Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me—King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me—never to part.***

*THE BLESSING

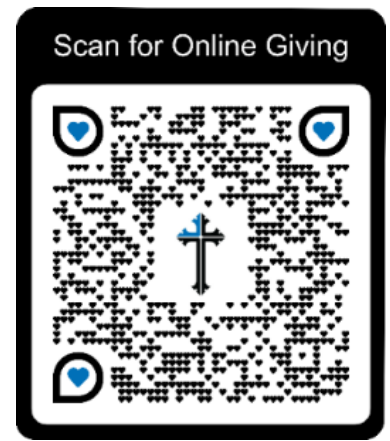
POSTLUDE

Fantasy on "Nun Danket All"

A. D. Mille

The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and in memory of long-time North Church member and friend Dotti Gerner from Don and Gail Nelson.

As part of the celebration of the Centennial of the main North United Methodist Church building (1931-2031), today we honor three of our Founding Members, who joined North Church in the 1940s. They are Sue Strickland Hirschman, Joan Esterline Lafuze, and Marcia Lurie. Please join us in the Gathering Center after 11:00am worship to eat a piece of cake in their honor and greet them.



Upcoming Events

Beckenhorst Singers Concert, Today, 3:00pm, Sanctuary
For tickets:

<https://tickets.beckenhorstpress.com/events/beckenhorstpress/1983705>

Synago Youth Small Groups, Today, 4:30- 6:00 pm in Youth Room

Confirmation Sunday, February 15

Mardi Gras, February 17, 5:30 -7:00pm

Ash Wednesday, February 18
7:30am, 1:00pm, 6:30pm

Scan to sign up for our newsletter:



Today's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood
Senior Pastor
Jill Moffett

Pastor of Community Formation

John Hague
Allen McCormack
James Horton
Audio Visual

Kathleen Hacker
Interim Director of Music
Heather Hinton
Organist

Sermons are now available on Spotify.