

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 22, 2026
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH — Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE — *Adagietto* (Isaac Mingus, cello) — Gustav Mahler

From Psalm 34

CALL TO WORSHIP — Floyd Churn

O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
O trust the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who trust in him will be blessed.
O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt God's name together.

***HYMN 401** (vv. 1, 2 & 4) *Here in This Place* — GATHER US IN

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy and righteous God,
You have called us to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world,
yet we confess that too often we lose our distinctiveness.
We grow comfortable with the patterns of this world,
hiding our faith when it feels inconvenient
and dimming the light you have placed within us.
Forgive us.
Do not let our witness lose its savor.
Rekindle in us a passion for goodness
that points others toward you.
Shape us into a people whose lives shine
with humility, integrity, and compassion,
so that all may see and give glory to you.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 269** (v. 2) *Lead On, King Eternal!* LANCASHIRE

Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords' loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Thomas Dorsey/
(The Chancel Choir) arr. Ringwald

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Bring me home though the night.
Through the dark, through the storm, to Thy light.
I have been to the mount, I have seen the Promised Land:
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious, Lord, take my hand,
Bring Thy child home at last,
Where the strife and the pain all are past:
I have dreamed a great dream that Thy love shall rule our land:
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Take Thy child unto Thee,
With my dream of a world that is free.
For that day when all flesh joins the glory Thou hast planned,
Precious Lord, take my hand.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

page 880

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:13-14

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Salt and Light* Rev. Boggess
Higher Ground: Sermon on the Mount

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Floyd Churn

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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Siciliano* J. S. Bach
(Isaac Mingus, cello)

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith*, 1977

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Floyd Churn

The diversity in the early church caused tension and conflict.
Yet the Spirit bound them into one body,
enriched by their differences.
We know that the same Spirit gives us a unity we cannot create or destroy.
The Spirit moves among us not to end diversity or compel uniformity,
but to overcome divisiveness and bitterness.
The Spirit leads us to struggle against the lines of race and class,
the ambitions of competing parties,
the loyalties to individuals and traditions, that divide us.
The Spirit impels us to make the unity of Christians
visible to a divided world and assures us that we shall be one.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 313** *Lord, Makes Us More Holy*

Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy,
until we meet again:
holy, holy, holy,
until we meet again.

Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving,
until we meet again:
loving, loving, loving,
until we meet again.

Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient,
until we meet again:
patient, patient, patient,
until we meet again.

Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful,
until we meet again:
faithful, faithful, faithful,
until we meet again.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE Improvisation on *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Steven Phillips

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak Street • Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119 • www.firstpressarasota.org

Music: CCLI License #2296940 One License #A-700000