FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Traditional Worship Service
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Adagio in E — Frank Bridge

OUR CENTERING MEDITATION (silent)

We come overfilled with life, unable to take in anything more because of overload. We need to empty ourselves so as to be able to take in and receive. We listen to sounds of silence, searching, knowing emptiness and hunger. Then in reverence, humbly coming to be replenished by God.

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

How good and pleasant it is when the community dwells together as one.

It is like the sensation of fine oil, the oil of anointing running down the head.

Unity is like the dew of Mount Hermon, falling softly upon the hills of Zion. For there the Lord has ordained the blessing.

Peace forevermore! Let us worship God!

\- *from Psalm 133*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN — #430

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! — DARWALL'S 148TH

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSON

*Please stand if you are able.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love and mercy, you have called us to live by your light, yet we have continued in ways of darkness. We hide from you and one another, often out of fear, rather than joining hands, hearts, and resources to live and work for your peace and justice in this world. Although called as Jesus' followers to live in confident hope of abundant life, we fearfully and anxiously strive instead to preserve and increase our personal well-being and profit. Forgive us for denying the light of hope in Christ. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to walk in the light, freely giving ourselves to others for Christ's sake. We ask these things in his name and offer our own silent confession . . . . (*Silence)* **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Janet Stahl
Book of Acts: Acts 4:32-35
Gospel: John 20:19-31

Leader: The word of the Lord;
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Virginia B. Smith

"Faithing Our Fears"

WE RESPOND

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

CONFESSION OF FAITH [from *A Brief Statement of Faith,* Presbyterian Church (USA)]

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. 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!"

*SERMON HYMN

Faith Begins By Letting Go (from *Glory to God*, see back page) LUX PRIMA

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION AND OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory God is My Strong Salvation Austin Lovelace

Chancel Choir

*Doxology #592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN #399

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight DUNLAP'S CREEK

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Kingsfold Trumpet Noel Rawsthorne

You're welcome to stay and enjoy the Postlude or to depart while the music is played.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Faith Begins by Letting Go 684

