



February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Bob Gross

Music Director: Terryl Dietert

Guitar/Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba

Video: Richard Tremarello

Liturgist: Doris Mayeshiba

Welcome to Christ Church! We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a "first-timer," a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God's Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you.

*Please stand as you are able

For your Reflection

"I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than be false, and incur my own abhorrence."

~Frederick Douglas

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have."

~Abraham Lincoln

"...before I can live with other folks I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience."

~Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *Bring Forth the Kindom* - Donter

Call to Worship 2 Corinthians 13:13 & Matthew 5: 14

One: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you."

Many: And also with you.

One: Jesus proclaims, "You are the light of the world."

Many: We gather to be empowered to share Christ's light.

*Opening Hymn *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* Hymn #326

*Opening Prayer

God, speak your word to us, a lamp unto our feet, so we may know your ways. Shine your light upon us, so we can see your path. Shine your light within us so we can know your presence. Shine your light out through us, so we can help you bring your love into this world. Amen.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

*Response *Glory to God* Hymn #240

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest.

Glory to God, glory to God, Alleluia! Alleluia!

A Message for The Young and The Young at Heart

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12 (NRSVUE)

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. 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. "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. You 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. Is 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?

Is 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? Is 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? Then 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. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Gift of Music

Hallelu, I Feel the Spirit - Hart

Sanctuary Choir

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 5: 13-20 (NRSVUE)

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the

house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon	"Live with Integrity"	Pastor Bob
*Hymn	<i>Here I Am, Lord</i>	Hymn #559

*Statement of Faith Kenneth Samuel

We believe in radical inclusivity.

We believe no one lives outside the reach of God's amazing grace.

We believe all nations are made of one blood.

We believe the Bible is the living testament of God's love and an affirmation for every person on the margins—regardless of race, religion, nationality, class, physical ability, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Amen.

Prayers of the People (see Weekly Newsletter for details)
For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns:
Joan G, Darlene's mom, Jan, John H's nephew Matt, Nancy S, Joan A's grandson Blair, Jacob O's Aunt Joann

Pastoral Prayer

One: God of light,

Many: hear our prayer.

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Like a spring whose waters never fail, God calls us to share what we have received. Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to partner with God's mission in the world.

Offertory

Together We Serve - Damon

SCAN TO DONATE



*Doxology

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

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, we give thanks for all you have given to us and praise you for your astounding goodness. Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies for the ministry of your church. Bless our offering for the work of your realm and give us wisdom for the right use of all you have provided, through Christ our Sovereign. Amen.

*Closing Hymn *You Are Salt for the Earth, O People* (see next page)

*Benediction

*Benediction Song *Now it's Time to Say Goodbye*

**Now it's time to say goodbye
To go on out from here
To live the visions and the dreams
To scatter hate and fear
So may the Peace be with you now
A peace that's filled with Grace
May it surround all your struggles
And everything you face.
And may you find your own way
To sing out love's own song
With courage, tears and laughter
And then to pass it on.
Yes the time has come to say goodbye
May peace be with you now**



Postlude

Medley of Light - arr. Smith

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

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Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla-flavor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ne-y and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
Marty Haugen, 1986

THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH

Today

Coffee Hour

Monday, Feb 9

Finance Meeting, noon

Tuesday, Feb 10

Quilting, 9:30am

Wednesday, Feb 11

Bag Lunch 11:30

The Way Movie, noon

Thursday, Feb 12

Handbells, 9:30am

NEXT SUNDAY: Mardi Gras

Counters: Janet Key, Joyce Zieman

Greeters:

Peggy Carew, Kathleen Schroeder

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February Movie & Bag Lunch | Wednesday, Feb 11 at noon | in the Christ Church Fellowship Hall. Bring a bag lunch. **Movie:** *The Way* (2010) is about an American doctor, Tom Avery (Martin Sheen), who travels to France to retrieve the body of his estranged son, Daniel (Emilio Estevez), who died while walking the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Spain; grieving and seeking understanding, Tom decides to complete the journey himself, carrying his son's ashes and meeting other pilgrims, leading to profound personal transformation and connection. This movie will serve as a basis for noon Lenten services beginning the following week on Ash Wednesday. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Membership Committee

Sunday School | First through eighth grade students are invited to participate in Sunday School on the third Sunday of the month, starting **Feb 15**. We will meet in the corner room on first floor, near the stairway. Sunday School will start at 9:30 and students will be released when church ends, to meet their parents in the Narthex. All are invited to join the fun—the subject for February 15 is Ash Wednesday and Lent. Come one, come all! Questions? Contact *Michael Key*.

Mardi Gras Celebration | Sunday, Feb 15 during Coffee Hour | Come one! Come all! Celebrate Mardi Gras before Ash Wednesday! There is a special prize for the person who finds the baby in the "King Cake!" Wear any Mardi Gras decor you may have. Take a selfie in the photo area. Come join the fun!

Sponsored by the Membership Committee

Ash Wednesday | Feb 18 at Noon at Christ Church & 7pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran with a potluck starting at 5:45pm

Noon Lenten Services will be held on **Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25**. If you wish, bring a bag lunch, and we'll eat together at 11:30am.

Dear Christ Church friends, **Thank you** for the lovely get well cards, text messages, and phone calls over the past few weeks. You are all wonderful and so very caring. Most of all thanks for your prayers. *Joan*

Divine Intervention Meal | Please sign up to help with food items and /or serving our February meal on **Thursday, Feb 26**. There are typically 25 guests and volunteers for each meal. The theme for this meal is: Chicken casseroles with rolls, salad, dessert, milk. The donation sheet is on the Lenox Street Bulletin Board. Food items must be dropped off at Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church, 125 W. Saveland Avenue by 6pm. See *Jim or Randene* for more information.

Prayer Requests | All prayer requests are welcomed. As always people can call the office and provide information for a specific request. Pastor Bob is always available for prayer requests in person, by email, or by phone. In addition, a prayer request card will now be available in the church pews (by the church envelopes). Place your prayer request cards in the offering plate. These prayers will be shared in the bulletin and newsletter, for the month they are received. At the end of the month, they will not automatically be reposted, so we ask that you please complete a NEW prayer request card. With any updates, your input is helpful to make sure we are addressing everyone's concerns and suggestions.

Membership Committee and Music & Worship Committee

Christ Church Paper Drive | The Divine Intervention warming room is in need of paper products, specifically paper towels and toilet paper. A collection box for donations is located outside the office near the Lenox Street entrance. We will be collecting these items throughout January and February.

Rummage Sale | Start sorting and saving your good stuff now! Christ Church will be participating in the Bay View Neighborhood Association Rummage Sale in **May**, date to be announced. Donations may be placed outside the middle choir room door in the basement. Contact *Michael or Janet Key* if you need items picked up or if you need assistance getting things unloaded on Sunday morning. Many hands make light work, so please plan to join this effort to raise money for the General Fund.

Monthly Activity	January	YTD
Contributions & Other Income	\$23,809	\$23,809
Expenses	\$21,008	\$21,008
Budgeted Amount	\$15,142	\$181,700

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If you should need pastoral support, please contact
Pastor Bob at 440-440-506-3258 or pastor@uccmke.org

