



**February 9, 2025  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

## **GATHERING AND PRAISE**

### **Welcome**

### **Prelude**

*The Gift of Love*

Hopson

*The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.*

### **Call to Worship**

Dan Ensor

The voice of God is calling:

“Whom shall I send?”

**We are here to answer God’s call.**

The voice of Christ is calling:

“Who will be my faithful disciples?”

**We are here to answer Christ’s call.**

The voice of Spirit is calling:

“Who will be a light to the nations?”

**We are here. Send us, we pray!**

### **Opening Prayer**

Dan Ensor

Your wisdom, Holy Mystery,  
is as unfathomable as the deep,  
as alluring as the night sky.

When all seems lost,  
call us from the wreckage of our lives.  
Grant us the ability and the will to hear your call  
and bless us with the grace  
to embrace your promised salvation.  
Help us face our fears,  
that we might remain sure-footed  
on our journey of faith. Amen.

**Hymn**

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

UMH 158

View last page for words

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

Dan Ensor

The Holy One invites us into relationships so deep that they have the power to change our very being. Let us turn to one another with this hope, as we share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

**Children's Message**

Pastor Larry

**Ministry of Music**

*Love Grows Here*

Choir

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**Prayer for Understanding**

*All Praying*

Dan Ensor

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

**Scripture Reading**

*Philippians 3:1-14*

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. **2** Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. **3** For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— **4** though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

**7** But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus

my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. **10** I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

**12** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **13** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### **Response to the Word**

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Hymn**

*As the Deer*

TFWS 2025

### **Sermon**

*"I Want to Know Christ"*

Pastor Larry

### **The Apostle's Creed**

UMH 881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

UMH 70

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Larry

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Offertory Invitation**

Dan Ensor

There are many signs we claim for our faith but ultimately it is our active love that reveals who we worship. As the plate comes around commit to give of your whole selves. Give of your talents and material possessions to the Church with the expectation that they be used to further God's dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you're able.

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

*Offertory*

*Meditation*

Morrison

*\*Doxology          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!***

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

Dan Ensor

**With hearts full of love,**

**may our spirits sing your praise.**

**As we bring our offering before you this day,**

**bless us and our gifts,**

**that we may bring your holy presence**

**where it is needed most in your world.**

**In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH TO SERVE

### Hymn

View last page for words

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

TFWS 2158

### Benediction

Pastor Larry

### Choral Benediction

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

TFWS 2241

*The spirit sends us forth to serve;*

*We go in Jesus' name*

*To bring glad tidings to the poor,*

*God's favor to proclaim.*

### Postlude

*Praise the Name of Jesus*

Hicks

## ***COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING***

*Come, Christians, join to sing:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
loud praise to Christ our King:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice,  
before his throne rejoice;  
praise is his gracious choice.  
Alleluia! Amen!*

*2 Come, lift your hearts on high:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend;  
to us he'll condescend;  
his love shall never end:  
Alleluia! Amen!*

*3 Praise yet the Lord again:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore  
his goodness we'll adore,  
singing forevermore:  
Alleluia! Amen!*

## ***AS THE DEER***

*As the deer pants for the water,  
So my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship you.*

*You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship you.*

*As the deer pants for the water,  
So my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship you.*

*You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship you.*

## ***JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE***

*I am weak, but thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.*

### ***Refrain:***

***Just a closer walk with thee,  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee:  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.***

*2 Through this world of toil and snares,  
if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but thee. [Refrain]*

*3 When my feeble life is o'er,  
time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. [Refrain]*