THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2026
4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Welcome to worship. At the ringing of the steeple bell, please enter a time of quietness in preparation for our worship together.

THE RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL
THE PRELUDE
THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SHOUT-OUTS

♦ THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)
Leader: People of God, we gather this morning to worship God. And what does God require of us?
People: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly before God.
Leader: Come, let us worship the God who calls us to live a life of love and action.
People: We come ready, willing, and able to worship God. Amen!

♦ OPENING PRAYER
Creator of All things, as we come to worship this day, may you create in us a spirit of willingness. A willingness to listen, a willingness to follow, and a willingness to act. As we sing, pray, and worship, create in us the desire to seek justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly before you. We pray this in the name of Christ, Amen!

♦ THE HYMN NCH#

CALL TO CONFESSION
As we gather this morning, we take a moment to pause and reflect before God on the truth about ourselves and our world. God has shown us what it means to do good, but often we turn away from justice, withhold kindness, or walk with pride rather than humility. Let us come before God with honesty and hope.

PRAYERS OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (UNISON)
Faithful God,
Through your word, you have shown us what it means to do good, but we confess that we poorly live those ways out. Far too often, we neglect justice because it is inconvenient for us. We ration our kindness towards neighbors and strangers when it makes us uncomfortable. Far too often, we walk either ahead of or behind you, rather than following the call to walk humbly with you. Forgive us, O God. Guide us back to your ways, restore our weak hearts, so that we may be your people, a people that are shaped by mercy, moved by compassion, and committed to your ways of love in action. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF GRACE (Responsively)
Pastor: Friends, hear the good news: The very same God who calls us to acts of justice is also the same God who meets us with mercy.

People: In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and renewed. We are called to rise and walk in God's ways. Thanks be to God. Amen.

♦THE PASSING OF THE PEACE AS GOD'S EPIPHANY PEOPLE
(*The congregation may greet each other with a sign of reconciliation and peace, such as a handshake or embrace and say these or similar words. The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.)*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
God of Mercy, may your profound and life-giving words fall upon our ears this day. May these words encourage us to actions of justice, kindness, and humility. Illuminate our hearts, so that we may do the good you call us to do. In Christ name we pray, Amen.

THE HEBREW BIBLE

SPECIAL MUSIC Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
GOSPEL READING

THE MESSAGE:

♦ THE HYMN NCH#

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR
Prayer Hymn: "O Lord, hear my Prayer" Songs from Taize
O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. When we call answer us. O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. Come and listen to us.

THE INVITATION TO GENEROSITY
THE RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
THE OFFERTORY
♦THE DOXOLOGY FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY NCH #778

♦ THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)
Gracious God, the one who shows us how to do good, both in big and small ways, we humbly bring these gifts to you this day. May these gifts, whether money, time, or talent, bring you glory and honor. Bless these gifts, may they be multiplied and used to further your kin-dom here on earth as in heaven. In Your name we pray, Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Beloved of God,
This communion table is set for all of us who may feel weary from the work of justice, for all who are learning how to love more deeply, and for all of us who seek to walk humbly, even in the midst of an unclear path. All are welcome at this table: no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to God.
One: Let us give thanks to the Holy One.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
One: God of justice and mercy, we give you thanks for your faithfulness from generation to generation, even when we have not been faithful. Throughout your word, you freed your people from bondage, walked with them through the wilderness, and spoke through prophets who dared to name injustice and call your people, both then and now, for transformation.

You have never wanted an empty sacrifice from us, but rather a lived-out faith, one where justice is embodied, kindness is practiced, and humility is lived out. And so we join the chorus of all creation, singing your praise:

ALL:
Holy, holy, holy God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One:
God of love and mercy, it is through your son that we see the ultimate example of love, grace, mercy and compassion. It is through Christ's life that we remember the good you call us to do. Today, we also remember that on the night before love was betrayed, Jesus gathered with friends at a table. Christ took bread, after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said, "This is my body, given for you. Whenever you eat it, remember me." After supper, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant, poured out for many, for forgiveness, healing, and hope. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Friends, at this table, Christ's life is shared, Christ's justice is proclaimed, and Christ's love is made real among us. Great is the mystery of faith,

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

THE PRAYER OF BLESSING
One: God of love, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. May they be for us the bread of justice and the cup of compassion. As we receive them, we may be transformed. As we are sent from this table, may we do justice in a hurting world, love kindness in a divided society, and walk humbly with you all the days of our lives. Hear us now as we pray the prayer Jesus taught all disciples to pray.

ALL: Our Friend, our Mother, our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

One: Beloved, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God
One: Take, eat, drink, and be nourished for the work of love.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP
We will celebrate communion by intinction. Please move to the front as the ushers direct you.
Receive the bread, dip it in the cup, consume both elements and return to your seat in a spirit of grateful prayer.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)
God of compassion, justice and mercy, we thank you for this holy meal. You have fed us with your unending grace, strengthened us for the journey ahead, and reminded us who we are and whose we are. As we go from this table, send us to seek justice with courage, to love kindness with generosity, and to walk humbly with you, until your vision of peace and wholeness is made real in all the world. Amen.

♦ THE HYMN NCH #

♦ THE BENEDICTION

♦ THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE NCH #78 (verse 3) *Part in Peace*
Part in peace! Our voices raising, in God's presence always be.
This the worship and the praising, bringing peace to you and me.

THE POSTLUDE