

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

PRELUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

OPENING SENTENCES

Elliott Kane

Jesus said: You are the light of the world.
Let our light shine, giving glory to God.

GATHERING PRAYER

Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses, to be light that shines in the world. Let us not hide the bright hope you have given us, but tell everyone of your love, revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

Hymn #744

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty,
Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

CONFESSON AND PARDON

Compassionate God, we admit that our love for you has not been complete. We have struggled to be a faithful church. At times, we have ignored your will, broken your laws, and resisted your love. Our care for our neighbors has fallen short, and we have overlooked the voices of those in need.
We ask for your forgiveness. Please guide us toward joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, but God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism.

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

GLORIA PATRI "Glory Be to the Father" Hymn #581

"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."

ANTHEM "This Train" Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12 p.524, OT

Second Reading

I Corinthians 2:1-12 p.127, NT

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-20 p.3, NT

Isaiah 58:1-12 p.524, OT

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.

² 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.

³ “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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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?

⁶ 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?

⁷ 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?

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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,

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

I Corinthians 2:1-12 p.127, NT

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Matthew 5:13-20 p.3, NT

“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.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Better Righteousness”

Cliff Lyda

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostle’s Creed)

Hymnal p.35

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again 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 Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (with the Lord’s Prayer)

Hymnal p.35

**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.**

OFFERING MUSIC

Tommy Clay, Jr.

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Hymn #606

“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.”

HYMN

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” Hymn #834

Precious Lord, take my hand;
lead me on, help me stand;
I am weak, I am worn.
Though the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light;
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my ways grows dear, precious Lord, linger near;
When my life is almost gone, hear my cry,
Hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

BLESSING AND CHARGE**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

“Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place”

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
 I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
 I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

POSTLUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Details on our website, Facebook, Realm & 386-385-3040.)

***170th Church Birthday is on February 15, 2026
after worship.***

Church Activities

Small Groups-Sunday 9:15 am; Tues. 4:00 pm; Wed. 5:00 pm.

Presbyterian Women-Circles meet every 2nd Tuesday, 10:30am & 6:30pm.

Social Connections-Thurs. 1pm in Zoom Rm.
Contact Shaaron Kohl 864-378-7032.

Quilting Group-Friday's at 10:00 in the Zoom Room, Welcoming new members.

Outreach Ministries

Bread of Life- February needs are Italian Dressing packets, Egg noodles, Bottled Water, Reusable grocery bags.

Shower Ministry-Thurs. from 2-6pm

PC3 Ministry-Monday 2-6pm

Meridian/Grace Market Place-Thurs. 2-4pm in the Bartram Rm a representative for assistance.

CDC (Chemical Dependency Counseling)-Mon. 8-12; Tues. 8-6, Wed. 8-6, Sat. 8-6.

Ascend Music Ministry-contact Felecia Nelson for an interview/auditionpinkorchidjfn@aol.com.

Financial Report – 2025 ended with a deficit of \$5,913.

Total revenue in 2025 was lower than 2024. Remember that any contributions that come in specifically designated for Westminster Hall between now and the end of February will be matched up to \$40,000.

The Brick Opportunity *to build a space rooted in legacy, community, and faith, one brick at a time. (#28)* For more details go to our website fpcpalatka.com.