



BLESSED

TO BE A BLESSING

February 8, 2026, 10:30 am
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to worship! Led by the Holy Spirit, we glorify God, nurture the faith with each other, and witness the fullness of Christ's love in the world. Beyond the pews, we hope you will grow in faith with us on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Our weekly announcements are e-mailed each Wednesday and posted online. Printed copies are available at the entrance.



Children are welcome in the Sanctuary throughout the service and are encouraged to borrow activity bags at the entrance with children's bulletins and other materials to engage in worship. Childcare is available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery, which is located on the 1st floor of the Education Building.

Assisted listening devices are available at the Princess Anne Street side entrance. Restrooms are located underneath the Sanctuary, accessed via the stairs off the porch on the Princess Anne Street side or elevator, or in the Education Building next to the offices or kitchen, both with elevator access. Our service is livestreamed via YouTube.

We are glad you are here as we give glory to God together!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

✠We rise in body or spirit.
We say words in bold together.

Prelude

Prayer
The Jubilate Ringers

Arnold Sherman

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Moment for Outreach

CNOY Walk

Jim Christie

Gathering Prayer

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, that as those blessed, we might be a blessing to others in your holy name. Amen.

Introit

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me (Hymn 700)

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Lewis Lowery

God of the past, who has created and nurtured us,

we are here to thank you.

God of the future, who is always ahead of us,

we are here to thank you.

God of the present, who is here in the midst of us,

we are here to thank you.

God of life, who is beyond us and within us,

we rejoice in your glorious love.

✠Hymn 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

✠Prayer of Confession

God of every blessing, your nature is to be generous. But we confess that we often continue to live in a mode of scarcity and stinginess. We hunger after pleasures, prestige, and possessions, inflated with pride in our own self-sufficiency. We harden ourselves to the grief and pain of others, valuing toughness over gentleness and avoiding responsibility for our own actions. We overlook those in need instead of pursuing justice and mercy. Lord, show us your mercy. Forgive us and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with you and one another, that we may walk in your ways with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

✠Joyful Response (Hymn 839, verse 1) *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***

✠Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.

Moment for Stewardship

Bruce Harvey

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Matthew 5:1-12*
Psalms 106:1-5, 47

p. 4 in the pew Bible
p. 685 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

Blessed Are You

Mark Hayes

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Blessed to Be a Blessing Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 694

Great God of Every Blessing

*Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

✠Affirmation of Faith from the *Confession of Belhar*

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family . . . We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . . .

Presentation of 2026 Pledge Commitments and Offerings

Tom Theado

All are invited to place pledge cards and offerings in the plates as they are passed. If you have completed your pledge online, already returned your card,

or give in other ways, we invite you to pause in a moment of prayer and thanksgiving.

Offertory

Song of Dedication

Felix Mendelssohn

✠Doxology (Hymn 606)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

✠Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠Hymn 733

We All Are One in Mission

during the first verse, children and youth are dismissed to the Ed Building for choir

*We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.*

*We all are called for service to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.*

*Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude

O God, Our Faithful God

arr. David Paxton

Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.



*The flowers on the pulpit are given by the Meditation group
in loving memory of Gail Taylor, a faithful member of the group.*

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: The Valasko Family

Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart

Sanctuary Guild: Connie Barnes, Linda

& Steve Spratt

Videographers: Kristen Betsill

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God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending - Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt. © 1958, ren.1989 The Hymn Society(admin. Hope Publishing Co.)

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!-Text: Fanny Jane Crosby; 1873; The United Methodist Publishing House; Music: Phoebe Palmer

Knapp, 1873; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee ©2001

Blessed Are You-Text: Hayes; Beckenhorst Press; ©2003

Great God of Every Blessing - Text: David Gambrell, 2009; Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864; © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow-Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; Public Domain

We All Are One in Mission—Text: Rusty Edwards, 1985, alt.; © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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