

The Flavor and Flame of Love

Season of Epiphany – February 8, 2026

MEDITATION

“You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean in a drop”—Rumi

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **P: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

“Come to Me, O Weary Traveler” *Music: William P. Rowan*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: Arise, shine—for your light has come.

All: The glory of the Lord rises among us.

L: God calls us salt and light.

All: The flavor that heals, the flame that guides.

L: In weary days and heavy nights—

All: Love still burns. Love still blesses.

L: In a world hungry for meaning—

All: Grace still seasons. Hope still shines.

L: Come, all who long to live with justice and compassion.

All: We come to follow Jesus, and to trust who we already are—the flavor and flame of love. Season us, O God, set us alight as we worship this day.

*SONG FOR EPIPHANY

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” **Refrain Only 2x** *Black 160*

UNISON OPENING PRAYER

Linda Thomas, Deacon

God of light and love, you call us salt and light, the flavor that heals and the flame that guides. We come this day as we are—worn and hopeful, hungry and grateful, carrying both shadows and songs. Season us with your grace. Set us alight with your love. Help us to remember who we already are in you—blessed, beloved, and sent into the world to shine with kindness and to live with courage. Gather us now in your Spirit, that our worship may be true, and our lives may reflect your light. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** "Christ Be Our Light" vs. 1,2,4,5 *Insert*

WORD FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN *Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Coordinator*

ANTHEM "Lead Me, Lord" *Bell Choir & Choir*
Words: Matthew 7:7,13, Music: John D. Becker

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 58:1-9a, p. 841; Matthew 5:13-20, p. 5
Linda Thomas, Deacon & Shauni Aiyelari

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION "The Flavor and Flame of Love" *Rev. Christina Williams*

***RESPONSIVE HYMN** "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" *Black 181*

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After the pastoral, during the prayers of the people, you are invited to share your joy or concern out loud. All are invited to respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

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. All are invited to sing "Amen". (Black 812)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC "I've Got Peace Like A River" *Choir*
Afri.Amer. Spiritual, Arr: John Coates, Jr.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Generous God, all that we are and all that we have comes from you. Receive these gifts—not as duty, but as gratitude, not as obligation, but as love. Use what we offer to bring flavor to places that feel empty, and light to places that feel dark. Season the world through our giving. Set your love alight through our living. For we offer ourselves, and these gifts, in the spirit of Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Black 82

***BENEDICTION**

SUNG BENEDICTION

“Peace I Leave with You”

Choir

Words: John 14:27, Music: Amy Beach

POSTLUDE

“The Lord is My Light”

Music: Oley Speaks

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Reader: Shauni Aiyelari; Choir, Linda Thomas, Joyce Kenneally, Meg Tivey, Malcolm Donald, Alan King, Chris Polloni, Clifford Moore; Hospitality & Food donation, Annual Meeting Potluck

Leading worship today: Rev. Christina Williams, Minister; Stephanie Miles, Music Director; Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director; Linda Thomas, Deacon

NEW HERE TODAY?

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here!

To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.

1. **Order of Worship:** **An asterisk means stand in body or spirit. **Bold text** is spoken in unison.*
2. **Kid's Connection:** *After the "Word for all God's children," the children remain in worship to engage in activities in their pray space and help with communion.*
3. **TAKE TWO** *is an adult faith formation group that meets after worship with Lisa Allen every other Sunday. Join the discussion on Being the Light next Sunday.*
4. **After Worship:** *Join us for Annual Meeting & a potluck lunch in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right. All are welcome.*
5. **Have Questions?** *Please reach out to Rev. Christina or the Deacon of the day.*

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PASTORAL PRAYER – THE FLAVOR AND FLAME OF LOVE

L: God of light and love, you call us salt of the earth and light of the world.
When we forget who we are, remind us.

All: Season us, O God. Set us alight.

L: For those who feel weary, discouraged, or worn thin—
for those carrying grief, anxiety, or silent burdens—

All: Season us, O God. Set us alight.

L: For those who are hungry for justice, and those whose voices have gone unheard—
for communities living with fear, violence, or loss—

All: Season us, O God. Set us alight.

L: For this congregation, that we may bring flavor to places that feel bland,
and light to places that feel dark—

All: Season us, O God. Set us alight.

L: For our children and youth, that they may know they are already beloved,
already enough, already shining—

All: Season us, O God. Set us alight.

L: For those who lead, teach, heal, serve, and show up quietly—
often without recognition—

All: Season us, O God. Set us alight.

L: For ourselves, when we hide our light, or doubt our worth,
or forget the love placed within us—

All: Season us, O God. Set us alight.

L: Holy One, gather all these prayers—spoken and unspoken—
and send us from this place as the flavor and flame of your love in the world.

All: Season us, O God. Set us alight. Amen.