

**Kindred Spirits Worship
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, February 1, 2026**

PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND TREATIES

One:

Called to live with respect in Creation
as Indigenous, Métis, Settler, and Newcomer peoples,
we acknowledge that the land on which we worship, work, learn, and serve,
and the water which sustains life on this land,
is of God, Creator,
and in the farthest reaches of memory
was entrusted to the original peoples who walked this land,
and to their descendants.

One:

With the coming of colonizers,
treaties were made,
but again and again the treaties were broken,
causing deep and lasting harm
to the historic caregivers of the land,
to the generations that followed them,
and to the land itself.

All:

**Called to action for Truth and Reconciliation,
we who gather here on Treaty One territory
and the homeland of the Red River Metis
commit ourselves to faithful ways
of honoring the treaties, the land, and one another
in a spirit of open-hearted respect.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING STATEMENT

In the season of Epiphany, we continue to witness how God's light is revealed in the world not through power or privilege, but through lives shaped by justice, humility, and compassion. Today's scriptures invite us to consider what it truly means to live as God's people, called to walk gently, love mercy, and reflect Christ's wisdom in a divided world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's light rises for those who seek justice and truth.

All: We come to walk in the light of Christ.

One: Jesus calls us to lives shaped by humility, mercy, and courage.

All: We open our hearts to God's transforming grace.

One: Come, let us worship God together.

All: We worship God, whose wisdom brings life and hope.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and gracious God, you call us not to power, but to love; not to pride, but to humility; not to fear, but to faithful living. As we gather in worship, shape our hearts and minds to reflect your justice, your mercy, and your compassion.

Guide us in the way of Christ, that we may live as people of light in the world.

Amen.

MOMENT TO PONDER

In today's readings, we are reminded that God's ways often challenge the values of the world. Through the prophet Micah and the teachings of Jesus in the Beatitudes, we hear that faith is not about power or success, but about lives shaped by justice, kindness, humility, and mercy. Jesus blesses those the world often overlooks and shows us that God's presence is found not in greatness as the world defines it, but in love lived quietly and faithfully.

There is a simple story of a child walking along a beach after a storm, gently picking up stranded starfish and tossing them back into the sea. An adult watching

said, “There are thousands of them, what difference can you make?” The child replied, as they threw another starfish back, “It made a difference to this one.” As we pause, we are invited to reflect on where God may be calling us to live out our faith in small but meaningful ways; acts of kindness, mercy, and justice that may seem ordinary, yet reflect the wisdom and compassion of Christ at work in us.

HYMN: VU#232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Micah 6:1–8

Psalm 15

Matthew 5:1–12

CHOIR ANTHEM “Behold the Beauty of the Lord”

REFLECTION

HYMN: MV#145 Draw the Circle Wide

OFFERING INVITATION

God has blessed us richly not so that we may hold tightly to what we have, but so that we may share freely. In gratitude for God’s generosity, let us offer our gifts and ourselves to God’s work in the world.

DOXOLOGY: VU#541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, receive these gifts and our thankful hearts. Use them for your purposes of justice, mercy, and love, that your light may shine through this congregation and into the world you so deeply love. Amen.

CENTERING MUSIC

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, we bring before you the needs of the world, where divisions run deep and many long for peace. May your wisdom guide leaders, your compassion strengthen the weary, and your justice uplift those who are oppressed.

We pray for our community and our neighbors, for those who struggle with loneliness, illness, grief, or uncertainty. Help us to be a people who notice, who care, and who act with love.

We pray for this congregation, called to live out the teachings of Jesus. Give us courage to walk humbly, to love mercy, and to serve faithfully.

We also lift before you those we name now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts...
(Silence)

Surround them with your peace and sustaining presence.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

HYMN: MV#171 Christ Has No Body Now but Yours

COMMISSIONING

Go into the world, walking humbly with God, loving mercy, and doing justice. May the grace of Christ guide you, the love of God sustain you, and the Holy Spirit empower you to live as people of light and hope. Amen.

CHORAL BLESSING: VU#425 God Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

POSTLUDE