



*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for

February 8, 2026 10:30 am

Welcome to Worship at Center Church!
We are delighted that you are with us today.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 8, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*†

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: If the human body, body of blood and muscle,
is to live, it needs salt.

**All: If the body of Christ, body of peace and justice,
is to live, it needs us!**

If the earthly creation, bustling and blooming,
is to flourish, it needs the sun's light.

**If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish,
it needs the Spirit's light!**

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

**Our faith, our love, our hope —
essential as salt and light.**

One: But if salt isn't salty?

All: It isn't what it's meant to be.

And if a light doesn't shine?

It isn't what it's meant to be.

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people.

**We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ:
a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community,
a justice-making people, giving glory to God!**

*OPENING NCH 164 Arise, You Light is Come

FESTAL SONG

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Ms. Ebony McMillan

The congregation sings as the children head to their classrooms.

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

African-American Spiritual

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5: 13-16

SERMON We are a Salty People

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE *You are Salt for the Earth, O People*
Center Church Choir

M. Haugen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Listen to the Lambs*

Robert Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943)

Center Church Choir

In recognition and celebration of Black History Month, the Center Church Choir will sing anthems by Black composers and arrangers in February. Today's anthem is composed by Robert Nathaniel Dett, also known as R. Nathaniel Dett, and Nathaniel Dett. Born and raised in Canada, he moved to the United States with his family at age 11, and completed his education and spent most of his professional career there. Dett was a composer, organist, pianist, choral director, and music professor. During his lifetime he was a leading Black composer, known for his use of African-American folk songs and spirituals as the basis for choral and piano compositions in the 19th century Romantic style of Classical music.

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts,
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts,
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)**

**Thank You, God, for the capacity and the privilege of giving.
May these gifts, which we give right back to You, transform hunger into nutritious food;
literacy into education; thirst into clean, accessible water; disease into healing;
displacement into welcome; and despair into hope.
We humbly ask You to consecrate these gifts for the transformation of lives and
communities so that our abundance may be for their need and their need become our
abundance.
To You, God, be the glory! Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN NCH 311 Renew Your Church**

ALL IS WELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Trumpet Voluntary

J. Stanley

Thank you to everyone who participated in today's worship!