

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: Bless these gifts, O God, with your love, your strength, and your presence. May the ministries this offering supports be a sign of your love, strength, and presence in the world. Amen.

HYMN *They'll Know We are Christians* **Blue Hymnal, #494**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God did not say that it would be easy to bring the good news to all people, but God did say that God would be with us. So go now in peace, walking humbly with God.

Congregation: **We go in faith and hope, to share the good news of God's love with all the people.**

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE

February 16, 2025

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

*Love guides the way through every season,
in every situation, and in every life.*

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on (Jeremiah 1, 1 Corinthians 13, Luke 4)

Pastor: Let us gather to listen deeply.

Congregation: Word of God, speak.

Pastor: Let us gather with childlike faith.

Congregation: Word of God, speak.

Pastor: Your servants are listening.

Congregation: Word of God, speak.

OPENING PRAYER

All people: God of love and life, speak to our hearts this day. Speak words of wisdom and faith. Open our hearts and minds to perceive your message of love, even when it's hard to hear. Strengthen our faith to answer your call, even when we don't feel confident or capable. Be our wisdom, our strength, and our love, that we may bring your wisdom, strength, and love to the world. Amen.

HYMN *Wonderful Words of Life* **Blue Hymnal #323**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: God of great expectations, you know how easy it is for us to make excuses for inactivity. We love to run and hide when a task is set before us. We look at the expectation and think that we don't have the abilities, strength, or wisdom to accomplish this task. We think, too often, that we are doing these things all by ourselves. And we feel sorry for ourselves and angry that you expect so much from us. Forgive our ignorance, and our stubbornness, O Lord. Help us to understand that

the opportunities for service that you offer to us also come with your abiding presence, love and support. It is your love which makes the impossible possible. Turn us around and place us back on the path of joyful service. Let our work be part of the fulfillment of the mandate of Jesus Christ when he made his proclamation in the synagogue so long ago. For it is in His Name that we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Even before we were born, God knew us. God has always been with us. Place your trust in God's presence and forgiving love. Rejoice!

All people: In the name of Jesus Christ, we all are forgiven! AMEN!

PRAISE HYMN

Amen

Blue Hymnal #312

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: Let us speak with words of love and with gestures of peace, as we share the peace of Christ with one another.

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

Trust and Obey

Blue Hymnal #556

HEBREW READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

RESPONSIVE EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Liturgist: If we speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but don't have love, we are nothing more than a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal.

PULPIT Side: If we have the gift of prophecy and know all the mysteries and everything else, and if we have such complete faith that [we] can move mountains but don't have love, we are nothing.

LECTERN Side: If we give away everything that we have and hand over our bodies to feel good about what we've done but don't have love, we receive no benefit whatsoever.

All people: Love is patient; love is kind. Love isn't jealous; it doesn't brag. Love isn't arrogant; it isn't rude. Love doesn't seek its own advantage; it isn't irritable, and it doesn't keep a record of wrongs. Love doesn't rejoice in evil but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, trusts all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

PULPIT Side: As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end.

LECTERN Side: Currently, we know things only in part and we prophesy in part; but when God's completeness comes, what is partial will be brought to an end.

All people: When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I am mature, I've put an end to childish things.

PULPIT Side: Now we see a reflection in a mirror; someday we will see face-to-face.

LECTERN Side: Now I know only partially, but someday I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known.

All people: Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:21-30

SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

ANTHEM

In the Service of the King (Ackley)

CHANCEL CHOIR

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: As a sign of our love for God, God's church, and God's creation, let us share our gift and offerings with a song and a prayer.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

OFFERING RESPONSE

Accept, O God, the Gifts

Blue Hymnal, #379

(Tune: Ellacombe)

*Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay.
Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.*

*Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill –
The ministry disciples have, empowered to do your will.*