

CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

February 8, 2026 10am

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Averill Elizabeth Blackburn

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ, Our Lord: Welcome to this time set aside to focus on the Holy Spirit who is working among us. May our hearts be open and eager to receive God's Word this morning!

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Dear Lord, we come together to worship you. Help turn our minds to you during this service so that we may better understand you and the words of your Holy Book. AMEN.

LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Let us join together to speak the words Jesus taught us....

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and power and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING (adapted from *Psalms 15*)

Leader: LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?

People: The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart—

Leader: whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others—

People: who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind—

Leader: who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

People: Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

(PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON (NIV)

Matthew 5:1-12

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MORNING MESSAGE

“Blessings You Don’t See Coming”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INTENSIVE PRAYERS

BENEDICTION *(Please remain seated)*

The Love of God the Father, the Grace of God the Son, and the Fellowship of God the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. AMEN