

Epiphany 5 Sunday

February 8, 2026

Prelude: Arioso

J.S. Bach

*Processional Hymn: Pray for the wilderness

No. 716

1. Pray for the wilderness, vanishing fast,
pray for the rain forest, open and vast;
pray for the people who live in the trees,
pray for the planet brought down by degrees.

2. Learn from the elephant, eagle and whale,
learn from the dragonfly, spider and snail;
learn from the people in neighboring lands,
learn from the children who play in their sands.

3. Work for the justice created things need,
work for the health of each plant and seed;
work for the creatures abuse has betrayed,
work for the garden God's wisdom once made.

4. Trust that God's Christ over came nails and wood,
trust that earth's people will turn to good;
trust that creation forever will grow,
trust that God's goodness to us overflows.

5. Pray for the atmosphere, pray for the sea,
learn from the river, the rock and the tree;
work till shalom is full harmony rings,
trust the connection of all living things.

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Here's what Jesus says: "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?"

It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Abba God in heaven."
(Matthew 5:13-16)

Come to us as we worship you this hour, O God. Renew your flavour in us and restore your light in and through us too!

ALL: Let us worship our Abba God, together!

***Hymn: We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet** **No. 202**

1. We lay our broken world
in sorrow at your feet,
haunted by hunger, war and fear,
oppressed by power and hate.

2. Here human life seems less
than profit, might and pride,
though to unite us all in you,
you lived and loved and died.

3. We bring our broken towns,
our neighbours hurt and bruised;
you show us how old pain and
wounds
for new life can be used.

4. We bring our broken loves,
friends parted, families torn;
then in your life and death we see
that love must be reborn.

(continued next page)

5. We bring our broken selves,
Confused and closed and tired;
Then through your gift of healing
grace
New purpose is inspired.

6. O Spirit, on us breathe
With life and strength anew;
Find in us love, and hope, and
trust,
And lift us up to you.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

**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,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you all;

And also with you.

Children's Time

(Children are invited to join in programming following Children's Time)

Choir: What does the Lord require of you

No. 709

1. What does the Lord require of you?

3. To seek justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.

What does the Lord require of you?

2. Justice, kindness,
walk humbly with your God.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 21: 5, 8-20 (p.16/17)

Patti Talbot

Isaiah 58: 6-10 (p.688)

Matthew 5: 13-16 (p.4)

INTRO: Our first Scripture reading comes from the book of Genesis 21: 5, 8-20. Abraham is the father of two sons, and both sons are promised blessing and inheritance from God. Listen:

Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.^[a] ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.”

¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of

the boy where he is. ¹⁸Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. Amen.

INTRO: Our second reading comes from the prophecy of Isaiah 58: 6-10. How is what we believe and practice personally and our commitments and actions in relation to others connected? Listen:

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:

 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator[a] shall go before you;
 the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday. Amen.

INTRO: Our final reading comes from the gospel according to Matthew 5: 13-16. These are words of Jesus. Listen:

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Abba God in heaven. Amen.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon: THE TWO NARRATIVES & A LAND TWICE PROMISED

Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon

Choir: Wade in the water

African-American spiritual
arr. by B. Nasmith

Wade in the water

Wade in the water, children,

Wade in the water

God's a-gonna trouble the water

See that host all dressed in white

God's a-gonna trouble the water

The leader looks like the Israelite

God's a-gonna trouble the water

See that band all dressed in red

God's a-gonna trouble the water

Looks like the band that Moses led

God's a-gonna trouble the water

Look over yonder, what do you see?
God's a-gonna trouble the water
The Holy Ghost a-comin' on me
God's a-gonna trouble the water

If you don't believe I've been redeemed
God's a-gonna trouble the water
Just follow me down to the Jordan's stream
God's a-gonna trouble the water

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll

***Hymn: I, the Lord of sea and sky**

No. 592

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night;
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them: they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? **[Refrain]**

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **[Refrain]**

Benediction

***Threefold Amen**

Postlude: Trumpet fugue

Couperin

**Remain seated if you are more comfortable*

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We invite you to join us for coffee hour and some light refreshments in our adjacent hall after the service.

All are welcome!

~

OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH:

To become the hands, feet, voice and heart of Christ for each other and in the world.



Thank you for all the ways you contribute to our Armour Heights Community.



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Coming Events

Sunday, February 8

Special Mission Sunday with focus on Gaza. Special Guests: Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon & Guy Smagghe (PWS&D)
Intergenerational band rehearsal, 12pm

Monday, February 9

Dance Fitness, 10:00am

Wednesday, February 11

Winter Study: “The Politics of Leadership”, 7:30pm in person & online

Friday, February 13

“Sing Your Heart Out” Karaoke Night, 7pm

Sunday, February 15

Transfiguration Sunday / Intergenerational Worship

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30pm

Sunday, February 22

Lent 1 Sunday
Documentary Screening with lunch, 12pm

Monday, February 23

Dance Fitness, 10:00am
AGM Finance Meeting, 7:30pm in person & online

Tuesday, February 24

AH Book Club: “A Different Kind of Power: A Memoir” by Jacinda Ardern, 7:30pm

Wednesday, February 25

Winter Study: “The Politics of Leadership”, 7:30pm in person & online

Sunday, March 1

Lent 2 Sunday
AGM Meeting & Lunch, 12pm

Monday, March 2

Dance Fitness, 10:00am



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“Discover the vitality of faith”

Thank you to Rev. Dr. J. Dorcas Gordon for leading us in worship this morning.

The Rev. Dr. J. Dorcas Gordon served at the Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto from 1994-2020 in a number of roles: as Director of the Toronto School of Theology's Doctor of Ministry Program (1994-1999), then as Principal and Associate Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Knox College (1999-2017) and finally as Interim Director of the Toronto School of Theology (2018-2020). Presently, she is Principal Emerita at Knox.

Between 2012-2019 with her husband, Noel, she led six Presbyterian study tours to Palestine/Israel, in addition, on two occasions spending sabbatical in Jerusalem. Since October 7, 2023, she has visited the West Bank and East Jerusalem three times and will facilitate a Canadian solidarity delegation this April. She has ongoing involvement with Canadian and Palestinian organizations committed to justice and peace.

Dorcas was in Team Ministry at St. David's with her husband, Noel from 1984-1992, They have four adult children and eight grandchildren.

Thank you to Guy Smaaghe for joining us this morning and for his presentation following worship.

Guy serves as the Director of Presbyterian World Service and Development. He has been with the agency since 1997. Guy has a Masters in Political Economy of Development from the University of Toronto. He has travelled extensively to partner project locations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Malawi, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Haiti, and recently in Nepal and Jordan.

More About PWS&D

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, PWS&D envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

Presbyterian World Service & Development's key values are:

Compassion

PWS&D walks with distressed and marginalized people, listening carefully to their stories and responding effectively.

Justice

PWS&D works for equality, empowerment, human dignity, peace and stewardship of creation. In solidarity, we affirm that all people are entitled to know their rights, to receive equal protection, and to have access to and control over resources.

Partnership

PWS&D believes in dynamic relationships that involve mutual learning, trust and shared vision. Healthy partnerships are accountable, ethical, equitable, flexible and respectful.

To read more about how PWS&D is specifically responding to the conflict in Gaza or to donate, please scan here:

