

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
Liturgical Color: Green

February 8, 2026

Matthew 5:13-20

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. “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 Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Slackwood Presbyterian Church
2020 Brunswick Avenue
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Embracing God. Extending Welcome. Celebrating All.



February 8, 2026

10:30 a.m.

--Order of Worship

****As a consideration to all who seek to worship this morning, please turn off or mute cell phones and other electronic devices.****

Bell of Invitation

Welcome & Announcements

The Lighting of the Peace Candle and Centering Prayer

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

Leader: Called to be light,

People: we carry God's hope into the shadows of the world.

Leader: Called to be salt,

People: we enhance the lives of those around us with joy.

Leader: Called to live in God's reality,

People: we welcome everyone as sisters and brothers in faith.

*Hymn #401 "Here in This Place" GATHER US IN

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

Patient God, it is so easy for us to miss the point. We know how to act religiously; we go to church, we donate, we volunteer, but we care more about how we are seen than about our faithfulness to you. We show off our holiness instead of actually sharing our food, our homes, our resources with those in the greatest need. Have mercy on us for the ways we serve ourselves, and teach us your way, the way that leads to justice and peace. (*Moment for silent prayer.*) Amen.

*Words of Assurance

*Gloria Patri (#581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

HEARING OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading – Psalm 34:1-10

The Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

“Blessings”

Laura Story

(Following the anthem, young people ages 3 to 10 may leave for Sunday School.)

Second Scripture Reading – Matthew 5:13-20

The Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. David Bowman

“Tasting Light, Shining Salt”

*Affirmation of Faith (from Confession of 1967)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

*Hymn #312 “Take Us As We Are, O God” ENDLESS FEAST

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People & 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine

is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Call for Offering

Offertory

*Doxology (#606)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn "Bring Forth the Kin-dom"

Verse 1

You are salt for the earth, O people:
salt for the kin-dom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
life in the kin-dom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the kin-dom of mercy;
pray for the kin-dom of peace;
work for the kin-dom of justice;
hope for the city of God.

Verse 2

You are a light on a hill, O people:
light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
shine for the kin-dom of God! (*Refrain*)

Verse 3

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
live for the kin-dom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the kin-dom of God! (*Refrain*)

*Charge and Benediction

DEPART TO SERVE

Announcements

*Those who are able may stand.

Christ's Ministers in the World: All members of the church

Pastor: The Rev. David Bowman

Director of Music: Dr. Shelley Sanders Zuckerman

Liturgist: Andy Pratt

The Peace Candle in the Chancel is lit to remind us of the gift of Christ's peace and our call to be peacemakers.

Welcome to all who are worshiping this morning. If you are visiting, we hope you feel very welcome, that you will sign a visitor card found in the pew rack and that you will stay following the service for refreshments and conversation.

Pastor Bowman's contact information:

Email: dfbsbv@gmail.com or Telephone: 732.547.3480

The **Adult Forum** meets each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. The Zoom link is in the Saturday announcements email.

Middle School and Senior High Sunday School classes meet each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The **Property & Finance Committee** will meet following worship this morning.

A **Valentine's Party** will be held at Heritage Village following worship today. Join the Community Care Committee and visit with our neighbors.

The **Community Care Committee** will meet on Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The **Truth, Justice & Reconciliation Group** will meet on Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The link to attend is in the Saturday announcements email.

Pastor Bowman will be on a week of study leave beginning February 9. He will return on February 16. If you need pastoral care during that week, call the Clerk of Session, Carol Belles. Preaching next Sunday will be the Rev. Walter De Gunya.

Ash Wednesday is February 19 and once again this year the sanctuary will be open from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. with stations for reflection. At the final station, you may receive the imposition of ashes. Plan to observe Ash Wednesday with some time for quiet and meditation.

A **covered dish dinner and game night** will be held on Saturday, March 14. Save the date and look for additional information to come soon.

Please continue to support the Deacons Food Drive for Arm in Arm. You may place your non-perishable food items (no glass bottles) in the bins in fellowship hall.

Those people remembered in the prayers of the people last Sunday are: Pulaski family, Marta, Don, Julie, Karlie, Olivia, Lori, Marisa, Julie, Steph, Amanda, Monica, Carrie, Carol, Pat, Fran, Doris, N.G., O.R., Julie, Patti, Israel, Ann Klein Forensic Center and Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, Minneapolis, the unhoused, the food insecure, unemployed and underemployed, those impacted by climate change and violence, our leaders, Erika & family, Vito, Hilda, Mylan, Francine, Amanda, Liz, John, Melissa & Rachael, Kelly family, Mikey, Jon, Samantha, Joshu, Tina, Sharon, Dawn, Scott, Lana & Joshia, Kristi, Jill, Leigh & Carol, Brendon, White family, Jim, Jaq, Kim, Prime family, MJ & Richard, Arduini family, Schubin family, Jackson, Brachelli family.

Slackwood's Mission Statement

Slackwood Presbyterian Church is a diverse, caring Christian community: guided by scripture, committed to loving God, loving our neighbors as we love ourselves and sharing Christ's love with all people.

Slackwood's Vision Statement

We envision glorifying and serving God by being an example to each other, the community, and the world through:

- meaningful worship,
- faithful prayer,
- relevant study,
- joyful fellowship,
- compassionate service.

We strive to build a safe community that embraces:

- all ages,
- people of color,
- the LGBTQIA+ community,
- people with disabilities,
- other marginalized people.