



A place where heaven and earth meet,
where people encounter God's generosity
and healing presence.

www.thebeachchurch.com

Pastor Jim Coyl
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 2026

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.

Hymn

Scripture Reading Matthew 5:1-12 - The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes

5:1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

5:2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
5:11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
5:12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon "Blessed in the Presence" Rev. Coyl

Pastoral Payer and 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.

Hymn *The Church's One Foundation*

Benediction

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Blessed in the Kingdom That Is Now

When Jesus sits on the hillside in Matthew 5:1-12, He is not handing out impossible ideals or entrance requirements for God's favor. As Dallas Willard helps us see in *The Divine*

Conspiracy, the Beatitudes are announcements—descriptions of who is flourishing because God’s kingdom is already present and active.

“Blessed” does not mean lucky or merely future-happy. It means deeply well-off, living in the reality where God’s rule is available here and now. The poor in spirit are blessed because they know they cannot run their lives—and therefore they are perfectly positioned to receive God’s reign. Those who mourn are blessed because they are not numbing themselves to reality; they are open to God’s comfort. The meek, far from being weak, are free from the need to dominate, and so they can truly receive the earth as God’s gift.

Jesus is not praising suffering itself. He is revealing that even in conditions the world calls failures—loss, hunger for righteousness, mercy that risks rejection, peacemaking that costs, persecution for faithfulness—God’s life is fully available. The Beatitudes invite us into a new vision of reality: a life apprenticed to Jesus, where transformation comes not by trying harder, but by trusting deeper and living daily in the presence of the King.

The kingdom of heaven is not distant. It is among us.

Daily Lectionary Readings

Monday, February 02, 2026: Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

Tuesday, February 03, 2026: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6;

Wednesday, February 04, 2026: Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26;

Thursday, February 05, 2026: Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5;

Friday, February 06, 2026: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18;

Saturday, February 07, 2026: Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8;

Practicing the Prayer of Examen: Noticing God's Kingdom at Work

The Prayer of Examen is a simple, daily spiritual practice that helps us become more aware of God's presence and activity in our ordinary lives. Rooted in the Christian tradition, the Examen is not about self-criticism or moral scorekeeping. Instead, it is a prayerful review of the day that trains our hearts to notice where God has been near, where we have been responsive, and where we may be invited into deeper trust and transformation.

A simple way to begin the Prayer of Examen takes just a few minutes:

Become still and give thanks. Quiet yourself and thank God for the gift of this day, asking for light to see it as God sees it.

Review the day. Slowly walk back through the day's moments—conversations, tasks, emotions—without judgment. Notice your responses. Where did you experience peace, joy, compassion, or clarity? Where did you feel resistance, sadness, anxiety, or withdrawal?

Respond to God. Offer gratitude for moments of grace, and gently place moments of struggle into God's care. Look ahead. Ask for grace for tomorrow, trusting God's presence in what lies ahead.

Practiced regularly, the Prayer of Examen gently shapes our awareness, helping us live more attentively, more humbly, and more fully in God's gracious presence—right where we are.