

## Sunday, 8 February 2026 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

### Black History Month

The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State University from January 2 to February 28, 1970. President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976. In a message on February 10, 1976, he urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.

### Prelude/Postlude

Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953) was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1906. She was the first African-American woman composer to have a composition performed by a major symphony orchestra. Her *Symphony No. 1 in E Minor* was first performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933.

### Sermon Hymn

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* – This paraphrase of the Prayer of St. Francis was first published by Sebastian Temple in the collection *Happy the Man: 13 Songs of Peace and Brotherhood* (Cincinnati, 1967). Although the prayer on which the text is based is often attributed to Francis of Assisi, there is no evidence of a connection with him other than that the tone of this prayer agrees with his life and witness. The earliest known version of the prayer is in French and appeared in the December 1912 issue of *La Clochette* (The Little Bell), a small devotional magazine published by La Ligue de la Sainte-Messe (The Holy Mass League).

### Offertory Anthem

*I Believe This Is Jesus*

Undine Smith Moore

I believe this is Jesus; come and see, come and see.

Oh, come and see.

The Light of God shines in his face, Oh, come and see.

He offers all his pardoning grace; come and see, come and see.

Oh, I believe this is Jesus, yes Lord, come and see, come and see.

Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989) was a prolific 20th century African-American composer and dubbed the “Dean of Black Women Composers”. She was a graduate of Fisk University and the Juilliard School of Music. Her oratorio on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Scenes from the Life of a Martyr*, was premiered at Carnegie Hall and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

### Recessional Hymn

The spiritual *Lord, Make Us More Holy* was first published in *Slave Songs of the United States* (New York, 1867) where it is identified as coming from South Carolina.