

Greeting

Margo Allerton

L: This is the day that the Lord has made!

P: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Bell

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Doug Bunch, organ

Excerpt of the Second Movement from "Suite Gothique"

Music by Leon Boellmann (1862 - 1897) ©1895. -- Public Domain.

*Call to Worship

L: God loves the field mouse.

P: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

L: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

P: God loves the child who rocks and claps.

L: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

P: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

L: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

P: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

L: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

P: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

L: So let us worship this good-news God!

P: Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

TFWS 2197

*Music: Irish Folk Melody; Words by Jan Struther (1901-1953) from Enlarged Songs of Praise 1931; Oxford University Press
OneLicense #A-739344*

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose work every childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

A Season of Prayer

Prayer Song “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

TFWS 2128

Music attr. to B. F. White, Public Domain; Words by Shirley Erena Murray
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Verse 1

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see.
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness

L: God said, “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them.”

P: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

L: Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

P: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

L: God said, “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.”

P: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

L: Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them.”

P: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways. ~ silence~

L: Fortunately for all of us, God also said, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.”

P: By God’s grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.

L: May this good news change our lives!

P: Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

UMH 895

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen!

Prayer Song “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

TFWS 2128

Music attr. to B. F. White, Public Domain; Words by Shirley Erena Murray
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Verse 3

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.**

Anthem "It Is Well with My Soul" Chancel Choir
Words by Horatio G. Spafford; music by Philip P. Bliss; Choral setting by Cindy Berry; © 2012 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049. Words: Public Domain; CCLI #1365061

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 24:17-21
Matthew 19:13-15

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

L: Let us pray together,

Holy One, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, "Love your enemy." "Turn the other cheek." "Care for the widow and the orphan." And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray. Amen.

Song of Preparation "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" UMH 277
Words by William H. Parker, 1885; Music by Frederick A. Challinor, 1903 ~ Public Domain Verses 1, 2

**Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

**First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.**

Message "The Good News Is: Protection and Care for the Vulnerable" Rev. Sharon Pajak

We Share Our Gifts

Invitation to Giving

Song During Offering "Matin" Doug Bunch, organ
Music by Gordon Young. © MCMLXII, Harold Flammer, Inc. Sole Selling Agent: Shawnee Press, Inc., Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 95
By Thomas Ken, 1674 ~ Public Domain

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise him all creatures here below!**

**Praise him above, ye heavenly host!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison) (liturgist, please lead)*

Ever-giving God, you gave Jesus to the world, holding nothing back. As he lived, Jesus gave to the world, holding nothing back. Thank you for this opportunity for us to give. Thank you for all who have given what they can. Now as we present this offering, challenge us to stretch out of our comfort zone as we plan ahead to ever-more follow Jesus in the ways we give what we can. Amen!

***Song of Response “See the Precious Human Children” See Insert**

Music by B. F. White, 1844 ~ Public Domain; Words by Anna Strickland ©Anna Strickland, 2025. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use.

**See the precious children seated on the lap of Christ our Lord
Called the greatest in the kingdom held so gently and adored
They are precious in the sight of God who made each tiny toe
In their weakness they’re held by love as each day they learn and grow**

**See the precious widowed women gleaning harvests from the field
Then returning to their kitchen to prepare their daily meal
They are precious in the sight of God who holds their broken hearts
In their sorrow they’re held by love that redeems each fragile part**

**See the precious foreign strangers as they carry all they own
To a land that’s full of dangers for the powerless and prone
They are precious in the sight of God who made their homeland, too
In their journey they’re held by love as each day they start anew**

**See the precious dispossessed ones asking for some food to eat
Sleeping under starry heavens, daily living on the streets
They are precious in the sight of God who loves them as a child
In their hunger they’re held by love as they guard their human pride**

**See the precious world impoverished by our malice and our greed
Humans, animals, and planet crying out for some relief
We’re all precious in the sight of God who made each holy thing
In our living we’re held by love as we care for every being**

***Blessing**

***Music for Going Forth "Cortege" Doug Bunch, organ**

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