

We invite and encourage you to enter the time of worship in quiet, using the time to quiet your mind and center yourself as we prepare for worship. We hope this time of quiet will provide space for you to open yourself to an encounter with God and others as we worship together.

A Time of Gathering

The Singing Bowl

The use of a Singing Bowl to aid in meditation goes back hundreds, maybe thousands of years across the far east. When it is sounded, the tone and the vibrations may help you clear your mind, cleanse your heart and comfort your soul. We will use the Singing Bowl through Lent as a way to open ourselves to God's gracious mercy and love.

Song "Christ is Here for Us (the Body of Christ)" Chancel Choir

Words by Elizabeth Tombouljian, used with permission; Music by Frederick Chopin ~ Public Domain, adapted by Elizabeth Tombouljian; adaptation used with permission

Calling on God

L: Let us pray together:

All: Holy One, God of Forgiveness, we call out to you and you surround us with deliverance. You love us infinitely more than we love ourselves or others. Open us this day to your counsel, helping us be more merciful, more grace-filled, so that we might rejoice in simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"We're Part of the Blessing"

Projected

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette ©2016 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Used with Permission

**We're part of the blessing of God's new creation;
The world may not see it, but we know it's true.
For God in Christ Jesus has given salvation;
The old life is gone! God makes everything new!
We're part of the blessing, for we are God's children.
We're loved and forgiven! We're welcomed back home.
And now we are called to be part of God's kingdom,
To welcome the children God claims as his own.**

**A man had two sons and the younger said to him,
"I want my inheritance now! It is mine!"
His father divided the property with him;
That son spent it all and was soon feeding swine.
But then he remembered his father providing;
He thought he would beg to go home as a slave.
His dad saw him coming as he stood there waiting;
He ran out to greet him and welcome and save.**

**We're part of the blessing of God's new creation;
As we have been welcomed, may we share God's grace.
There's no room for grumbling in God's gracious kingdom;
There's no place to question God's loving embrace.
The outcast, the sinner, the poor, struggling mother,
The addict, the seeker, the one who is lost —
God welcomes them home and invites them to dinner —
God runs out to greet us through Christ and his cross.**

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

L ... And despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God! Amen.

The Peace

Scripture Reading

Psalm 32

Anthem

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

Chancel Choir

American Folk Hymn, Public Domain. Arr L. Eugene Oldham, Copyright 2022 Beckenhorst Press, CCLI #1365061

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11b - 32

L: A Word of God that is still speaking,

P: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Preparation

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

UMH 348

By Will L. Thompson, 1880 ~ Public Domain

Verses 1, 2

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.**

Refrain

**Come home, come home; ye who are weary come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!**

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?
(Refrain)**

Message

"Are We the Problem?"

Rev. Sharon Pajak

A Season of Prayer

Choral Call to Prayer "That's Enough for Me (Warner)"

Chancel Choir

By Barney E. Warren, Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell ©2022 Worship Design Studio and Chuck Bell Music. Used With Permission

A Time of Quiet for Personal Prayer

Prayers of the People

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!

We Share Our Gifts

Invitation to Giving

Song During Offering "It Is Well With My Soul"

Gracenotes

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss (1876), Public Domain. Arr. Jason W Krug, Copyright 2022 Grassy Meadows Music, Used with permission.

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

By Thomas Ken 1672 ~ 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)

Generous God, in light of your extravagant blessings— no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives— we offer our gifts and ourselves, and know that you transform what we plant into the produce of love. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

UMH 383

Words by Brian Wren ©1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

Verses 1 – 4

Music by Carlton R Young ©1987 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI #1365061

**This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

**For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.**

**Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.**

**Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.**

*Announcements

*Choral Benediction

*A Blessing for Becoming Real

*Music for Going Forth

Elizabeth Tomboulian

Meditation on the Joy of Christ, part 1

by Elizabeth Tomboulian, used with permission.