

Greeting

Laurie White

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

P: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Gathering Music (*please do not invite people to stand – if they do, they do... otherwise it's a ton of standing*)

America the Beautiful

UMH 696

By Kathleen Lee Bates, 1904, and Samuel A. Ward, 1888 ~ Public Domain

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

America

UMH 697

Words by Samuel F. Smith, 1832, Music from Thesaurus Musicus, 1744 ~ Public Domain

**My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside let freedom ring!**

**My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills, like that above.**

**Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.**

**Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might, great God, our King.**

Passing the Peace

L: May the peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

Centering Bell

Music: we will omit a prelude – the centering bell will serve to bring people back to their seats, then Laurie can invite them to stay standing as they are comfortable for the call to worship.

*Call to Worship

L: Come, be cleansed of all that binds us to our brokenness.

P: We shall be free from our brokenness!

L: Cleansed by God, who can hold in the chains of yesterday's sins?

P: We shall be free of our chains!

L: Here, in the presence of God's flowing grace, we can overcome all fear!

P: We shall be free of our fear and doubt!

L: We are invited to immerse ourselves today in the love of God, a love that brings healing and wholeness.

P: Let everyone give thanks and praise to our Risen Lord!

*Opening Hymn

“God of the Ages”

UMH 698

Words by Daniel C. Roberts, 1876; Music by George W. Warren, 1894 ~ Public Domain

**God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.**

**Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay, thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.**

**From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase; thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**

**Refresh thy people on their toilsome way; lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.**

*A Prayer for Our Country *Liturgist please lead unless Pam tells you otherwise*

L: Almighty God, ruler of all nations, we pray today for our nation and its leaders. May we be mindful of your patience and obedient to your will.

All: Forgive our shortcomings as a nation. Purify our hearts to know the truth that alone can make us free.

L: Save us from injustice and oppression, be we the offenders or the receivers of such. Keep us from pride and arrogance, greed, and self-centeredness, all of which separate us one from another.

All: Increase our concern for all the peoples of the world, especially the least of your children, that we may be a blessing and example to all nations.

L: Finally, bring us at last to that day when the whole world shall know peace and blessedness
All: Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Glory Be to the Father

UMH 70

Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th centuries, Music by Charles Meineke, 1844

**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!**

A Season of Prayer

Congregational Call to Prayer “This Is My Song”

UMH 437

By Georgia Elma Harkness and Lloyd Stone

Verse 3

©1934, 1938, 1942, 1947, 1951, 1955, 1962, 1964 *The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI #1365061*

Music: Please don't drag ... about 74 bpm in cut time

**This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve Him,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;
Myself I give thee; let thy will be done!**

A Time of Quiet for Personal Prayer

Prayers of the People (Music, please underscore)

Special Music

“God Bless America”

Chancel Choir

by Irving Berlin, Copyright 1939, renewed 1969, Gene Tunney, A.L. Berman and Ralph J. Bunch, Trustees of the God Bless America Fund, Shawnee Press. OneLicense #A-739344

Scripture

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

⁸We do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia, for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. ⁹Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again,

L: This is the word of God!

P: Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Preparation

“Breathe on Me Breath of God”

UMH 420

By Edwin Hatch, 1878, and Robert Jackson, 1888 ~ Public Domain

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
Till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.**

Message

“Freedom”

Rev. Pam Wagner

A Service of Holy Communion

UMH 12

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, in all our celebration, fireworks, parades, and gatherings we proclaim liberty and freedom. Yet our hearts are chained by anger, doubt, terror, and fear. We live in those chains, often not knowing that there is really any other way. We have become accustomed to our imprisonment. Forgive us when we turn away from your freeing love. Help us to place our trust in you and serve you by working with others for peace and hope for all. These things we ask in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Silent Confession

L: Here the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners! That proves God’s love for us! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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

All: *Glory to God! Amen!*

L: *As a forgiven people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God as we receive the morning offering.*

Song During Offering

“Amazing Grace”

Elizabeth Tombouljian

by John Newton Public Domain, arr. E Tombouljian, used with permission

The Great Thanksgiving

Holy Communion

Song During Communion “It Is Well With My Soul”

Dustin Willis

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*Closing Hymn

“We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations”

UMH 569

By H. Ernest Nichol, 1896 ~ Public Domain

Verses 1,2,4

**We’ve a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light,
A story of peace and light.**

Chorus

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.**

**We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
A song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword,
And shatter the spear and sword. (*Chorus*)**

**We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow hath trod,
That all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God,
Might come to the truth of God. (*Chorus*)**

*Sending Forth with Blessing

L: Go in peace!

**P: In the power of the Holy Spirit we now go into the world to be the people of God, the
body of Christ!**

L: *Blessing...*

*Music for Going Forth “Processional in G Minor”
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Dustin Willis