



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

*“The heavens are telling the glory of the Lord;
and the firmament proclaims his
handiwork.”*
(Psalm 19:1)

**All around us are signs and wonders,
fingerprints of the creator.
Praise be to God!**

*“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it;
the world, and all who live in it.”* (Psalm
24:1)

**All around us we find life;
all the created world is related to us.
Praise be to God!**

Come, let us dwell in God’s work of art!
Here in this wondrous world, we are not
alone.

We share this life with the heavens
and the earth,

**with the waters and the land,
with trees and grasses,
with fish, birds, and animals,
with minerals and creatures of every
form,
and with all our brothers and sisters.
Praise be to God!**

**God is good
and everything God makes is good.
Praise to the creator of all that is,
seen and unseen!**

HYMN #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**We give you thanks
for all the ways that you bless our lives:
the beauty and abundance of nature,
the love of family and friends,
the joy of knowing you
and hearing your word.
Send your Spirit during this time of
worship
so that we might dream your dreams
and see visions of the world
as you created it to be.
Guide our thoughts and actions.
Bring us closer to you
so that we might delight in you
and in all that you have made.**

RESPONSE #664 *Morning Has Broken*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**O Lord, save us from hardness of heart,
where your word cannot take root.
O Lord, save us from shallowness of mind,
where your word withers away.
O Lord, save us from worries and wealth,
where your word is choked out
by the anxieties of this age.
But Lord, grant that our hearts may be
fertile soil,
where your word takes root,
and flourishes and grows,
bringing fruitfulness to our lives
and blessing to the world around us.**

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."

John 15:5

Friends, receive the abundant life that is yours through the living Word, Jesus Christ, who forgives all our sins. In him we grow and flourish and bear fruit. Know that he lives in you, strengthens you, and equips you for Kingdom service.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #175 *Seek Ye First*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 55:6-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

MESSAGE The Power of the Word

HYMN #771 *What Is the World Like*

PRAVERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your 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 yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.*

HYMN #697 *Take My Life and Let It Be*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21

