

PRELUDE *Peace in the Valley, Thomas A. Dorsey 1939*
- David Little, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord, all people;
let the sound of God's praise be heard!

Great is God's power!
Creator of the universe,
whose breath gives life,
whose hands create beauty,
whose love brings freedom,
whose glory fills the earth,
to you we bring our praise this morning.

HYMN #386 ***Come, Worship God***

PRAYER OF PRAISE—based on Mark 4:35-41

Mighty God, who speaks a word of peace to calm our troubled sea;

Caring God, who nudges us away from fear and toward faith;

Ever-present God, who offers us peace but also raises questions without easy answers:

open our eyes to see you in our boat today;

strengthen our hearts for the challenges that lie ahead;

open our ears to hear the word you speak.

RESPONSE #123 ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

Note: This text of this carol, written by Edmund Sears in 1850, is heavily shaped by the turmoil of the time, including the recent conclusion of the Mexican-American War, rising sectional tensions over slavery in the U.S., and the 1848 revolutions across Europe. It was written a decade before the official start of the American civil war. It reflects on the angels' song of "peace on earth, goodwill to all" in a "weary world" and invites the hearers to rest and reflect on that song. May we hear and heed that message today!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

God of peace, the brokenness of this world can seem so vast
that we doubt what we can do.
Forgive us for giving up and leaving brokenness alone.
Help us remember and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit
to do whatever it takes for the healing of our world.
Give us the courage, wisdom, and passion to bring your wellbeing and wholeness into our everyday lives, and world.

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Ephesians 2:13, 16, 19

In Jesus you who were once far off have been
brought near by the redemption of Christ.
He himself is our peace;
in him we have been reconciled to God
through the cross,
made citizens with the saints
and members
of the household of God.

Hear, then, the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, reconciled, and given the grace to be peace-makers in the world.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #308 ***O God in Whom All Life Begins***

SCRIPTURE READINGS See insert

MESSAGE Fruit of the Spirit:

The Comfort and Challenge of Peace

HYMN #378 ***We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom***

PRAYERS 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 #753 ***Make Me a Channel of Your Peace***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven*
Music: John Goss 1869
- Ian Alvarez, chimes variation