



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—inspired by Psalm 27

God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

**God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble,
and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!**

Day after day, we seek God’s face and the assurance of God’s love:

O God, do not turn from us or hide your face from us!

Be our guide and our light instead!

One thing we ask of God:

**That we may be present to God’s presence throughout our days,
beholding the beauty of God’s creative work, everywhere.**

Beloved of God, enter this worship in thanksgiving, for God is present among us and within us!

HYMN #667 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

PRAYER OF PRAISE—inspired by Hebrews 1

**We praise you, loving God,
for coming to the world
in the person of Jesus Christ, the Lord.
When the words of the prophets went unheard
and when their actions were ignored,
you spoke the creative word once more,
bringing order out of chaos again;
this time not to bring a world into being,
but to bring your very being into the world—
the essence of your love taking on human flesh.
Open the eyes of our hearts
to see Jesus,
to know Jesus,
to live according to the Way of Jesus.**

RESPONSE (insert) *Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus*

Note: This song was written by Helen Howarth Lemmel. Daughter of a Methodist minister, Helen emigrated from England with her family to America in 1875 when she was 12 years old. They first settled in Mississippi, then relocated to Wisconsin. She moved to Seattle in 1904, wrote many songs, and for three years was music critic for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Helen lived in Seattle until her death in 1961. In adulthood she became blind because of an illness, which makes “turn your eyes upon Jesus” all the more meaningful.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**Unclutter our lives, Lord;
we have so much,
consume so much,
expect so much.**

**Grant us perspective;
to see the world
through others’ eyes
than just our own.**

**Grant us compassion;
where there is need
to play our part
not turn aside.**

**Grant us gratitude
for what we have,
our daily bread
the gift of life.**

**Unclutter our lives, Lord,
give us space,
simplicity
thankful hearts.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Hebrews 12:1-3

“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that clings so closely... looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God. Consider him who endured such hostility... that you may not grow weary or lose heart.”

Friends, hear the good news: we don’t have to live by our old ways anymore! Jesus Christ has pioneered a new life-giving Way, through love and sacrifice, through joy and service. Follow in his Way, and be strengthened and encouraged.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #817 *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 27:8
Hebrews 1:1-3 and 2:5-9

MESSAGE But We See Jesus

HYMN #268 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

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 #543 *O Christ, Surround Me*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE