WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—inspired by Psalm 27

God is our light and our salvation;
is there anything to fear?

God is our shelter and refuge
in times of trouble,
and our hope and joy
in times of celebration!

Day after day, we seek God's presence
and the assurance of God's love.

Loving God, be our guide and our light!

One thing we ask of God:

that we may abide in God's love
all the days of our life.

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

HYMN #645 ***Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above***

PRAYER OF PRAISE

God of goodness and grace,
we long for your presence,
for the peace your promises bring,
and for the assurances we have received
through the gift of Jesus Christ.

May we, your people,
this day and every day,
have open eyes to see
and open ears to hear
your presence among us.
Open us to your Holy Spirit,
and renew us through our worship.

RESPONSE #280 ***Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

We want to be fountains of hope for others,
gracious God, but we confess that we struggle
with negativity and limited vision.

We would like to be renewed people, but our
pride prevents us from letting go of our views of
things and changing our thinking and actions.
Help us to see with the eyes of the Spirit, and
acknowledge the ways you are working out your
purposes all around us.

(time for silent reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—based on 2Corinthians 5:17

"*Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.*
The old life has gone; a new life has begun."

Know that in Jesus,
God embraces you, forgives you,
and strengthens you to live a renewed life.

Friends, believe the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

PASS THE PEACE

HYMN #774 ***There Is Now a New Creation***

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 1:1-11

MESSAGE God's Work in Progress

HYMN #250 ***In the Bulb There Is a Flower***

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 #450 ***Be Thou My Vision***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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