



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ:
"Come to me! Follow me!"

**We come to this place and to this time,
at the invitation of Jesus Christ.**

In the name of Jesus Christ,

we praise our God and celebrate God's goodness.

In the midst of a world that can sometimes be cruel,

we proclaim the God of compassion.

Where there is despair that threatens to swallow up
lives and communities,

we proclaim the God of hope.

In the midst of indifference and apathy,

we proclaim the God of love.

Come, let us worship together
and praise the Light of the World, Jesus Christ,
who calls us to follow him into the world
and proclaim God's lovingkindness.

HYMN #314 *Christ, Be Our Light*

PRAYER OF PRAISE—based on Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us, and bless us,
and cover us with the radiance of grace.

May your way be known everywhere, loving God:
in the hidden places of our hearts;
in the shelter of our homes;
in the bonds of friendship and community;
in our neighborhoods; and
in the farthest reaches of creation.
You transform us; you heal our lives;
you renew the earth and every creature;
you gather in the lonely, the lost, the least;
soothing ancient animosities;
creating and recreating a vision of hope.
Let our praise and gratitude shake the rafters
with songs of joy!

RESPONSE #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**Faithful God, we are not always people who live by
faith. In uncertain times like this it is easy to pull in
on ourselves and try to control outcomes. Forgive
our lack of faith and our limited vision in what you
can do. Help us to know that you are working your
good purposes out, even in small and hidden ways,
and help us to find the good and acknowledge your
faithfulness in the midst of turbulent times. Mostly,
we want to experience the joy and assurance of your
presence with us.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Psalm 27:13-14

*I am confident of this:
we will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.*

Friends, know the goodness of God
who forgives, restores, and reconciles.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Be at peace, love the Lord your God,
and love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #774 *There is Now a New Creation*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 37:1-11
Luke 1:46-55

MESSAGE The Upside-Down Kingdom:
Blessed Are the Meek

HYMN #100 *Canticle of the Turning*

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.

SONG #543 *O Christ Surround Me*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE