PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us and we are his;
we are God's people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

HYMN #645 ***Sing Praise to God***

PRAYER OF PRAISE—from Psalm 98:1, 4, 7-8

Sing to the Lord,
for God has done marvelous things!
Make a joyful sound, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song, and
sing praises.
Let the sea roar and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
Let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord,
for he judges the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

RESPONSE #134 ***Joy to the World***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

We, who so often
take the wonders of creation for granted,
welcome the opportunity
to make a joyful noise before you, loving God.
Yet, joyful noises are not easy for everyone to make,
because of the burdens they carry of their own making,
because of the burdens others have laid upon them,
because of the strife that exists between the diverse and beautiful people in your creation.

Speak to us, loving God, in the stillness of this time
and remind us of Jesus' willingness to take
our burdens upon himself and to learn from him;
to experience his gentleness, his joy,
and his steadfast love for all,
and the reconciling power to forgive,
and heal all of our conflicts.

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
—based on Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 15:10

With joy draw waters from the well of salvation!
Forgiveness is real!
Trust it and share it; forgive as you have been forgiven.
Jesus said:
"There is joy in heaven over just one who repents."
Truly, God is our salvation.
We shall trust and not be afraid!

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #749 ***Come! Live in the Light***

SCRIPTURE READINGS Philippians 4:4-7
Nehemiah 8:9-10

MESSAGE The Fruit of the Spirit:
The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength

HYMN #39 ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

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 #80 ***You Shall Go Out with Joy***
(sung through twice)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE