



**PRELUDE** *Joy to the World*

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**—from Psalm 113:1-7

*Blessed be the Lord!*

*Blessed is the name of the Lord!*

*From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised.*

*The Lord is exalted above the nations,  
and God's glory is above the heavens.*

Let us worship God together!

**HYMN** *For the Beauty of the Earth (#14)*

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

**Refrain:**

Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light: **[Refrain]**

For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: **[Refrain]**

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: **[Refrain]**

For thyself, best gift divine  
to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven: **[Refrain]**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Jesus, we are called to be people whose lives are  
shaped by your selfless life.**

**We confess how easy it is to drift into bad habits,  
so we need your help to make our words and  
actions consistent with yours.**

**Forgive us when our words have been less than  
truthful.**

**Forgive us when our actions have lacked integrity.  
Forgive us when our words and actions have been  
thoughtless and hurtful.**

**Spirit of truth, help us speak the truth in love at all  
times.**

**Guide us, so that all our dealings are carried out  
with honesty and care.**

**Fill us with your love so that our words and actions  
bring blessing to those who hear.**

(moment for silent prayers and reflection)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**—from Psalm 103:8-12

Our God is merciful and gracious;  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
God does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is God's steadfast love  
toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

Friends in Christ, know that you are forgiven and  
blessed,  
embraced and empowered to live a renewed life,  
as a blessing to those around you.

**Thanks be to God!**

## PASSING THE PEACE

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

In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Ephesians 4:29 through 5:2  
- *George Kartano*  
Romans 12:9-21  
- *Jacob Sawyer*

### MESSAGE *The Power of Blessing*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Fairest Lord Jesus*  
- *Charlotte Appel, piano*

**CELEBRATION OF GRADUATES** - *Jonna Reeder*  
- *MPC Deacons*

### 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 *You Shall Go Out with Joy (#80)*

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands.  
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.

### BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,  
The love of God surround you,  
And the Holy Spirit keep you,  
That you may live in faith,  
Abound in hope,  
And grow in love,  
Now and forevermore.  
And all of God's people said, Amen!

### POSTLUDE

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