



PRELUDE *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*
David Little, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's voice speaks into our chaos,
creating life and order and peace,

**gathering us together
to remember who we are
and whose we are,
and to find meaning and purpose.**

God's voice flows like
living waters of grace,

**our new name, "Beloved"
resounding in our souls.**

God's voice stirs the waters
of baptismal hope

**calling us to be bearers of peace
to a world that is hungry for hope.**

HYMN #475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**We praise you for creating this world in all beauty,
for redeeming the world through Christ, our Lord,
and for sending us the gift of your Spirit
to encourage, instruct, and sustain us.
We long for your Spirit to work among us now,
to inspire our praise,
to challenge us with your truth,
and to equip us for service in your world.**

RESPONSE #366 *Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**Loving God, we confess that we have allowed
so many things to come between us and the
good news of the gospel, that we cannot see
the light of Christ or hear your voice calling to us.
We are tempted to listen to false voices
and follow false ways. Open our ears to listen
to your voice, and open our hearts
to trust you more and follow your ways,
that we may receive our true identity
as your beloved children.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from 2Corinthians 5:17-18:

We expect the fire of judgment,

but are given the Spirit of grace.

We expect God to call us bad names,

**but we are given a new name,
and called beloved.**

We expect God to be angry,

but the dove of peace descends upon us.

This is the good news for us!

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #703 *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:1-11

MESSAGE Beginning as Beloved

HYMN #493 *Now There Is No Male or Female*

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 #296 *Go in Grace and Make Disciples*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE