



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**—based on Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!  
Thank the Lord with all your heart  
in the congregation of God’s people.

**How amazing are the works of our God!  
They are treasured by all who love him.**

Everything God does reveals his glory and majesty.  
God’s righteousness never fails.

**Who can forget the wonders he performs?  
How gracious and merciful is our God!**

All that God does is just and good,  
and his word is trustworthy.

**God has redeemed his people,  
guaranteeing his covenant with them forever.  
What a holy, awe-inspiring name God has!**

Reverence for the Lord  
is where true wisdom begins,  
and the rewards of wisdom come to all  
who follow him.  
Let us praise our God together,  
and find wisdom and covenant love.

**HYMN #1 *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!***

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

We gather to worship the One  
who crafted creation out of chaos;

**our cries of joy  
join the anthems of the universe.**

We gather to lift our praise  
to the God who gives us voice;

**we bring the songs which have echoed  
in our hearts all week long.**

We gather as the children of God,  
our joy unbroken in God's love;

**lifting up songs of faith and gratitude  
to our Creator and Redeemer.**

**RESPONSE #612 *We Praise You, O God***

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION**

**Loving God: we desire understanding, yet at the  
same time confess that sometimes we don’t want  
to understand. It feels like too much work to  
understand people who are different from us,  
and too challenging to understand your ways and  
your word. Forgive us for settling for the easy  
path, the narrow view. We come with humility  
and ask that you grant us open minds and hearts  
to take steps toward you and others in love and  
understanding.**

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**—based on Isaiah 55:6-7

*“Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near.  
Let us return to the Lord  
that he may have mercy on us,  
to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”*

Friends in Christ, know that our God—the God of  
love—is always near, always merciful, always  
pouring forth abundance. Be at peace, love your  
neighbor, and do the work of reconciliation as  
ambassadors of Christ in this world.

**Thanks be to God!**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**HYMN #839 *Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine***

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**     Isaiah 6:1-8  
   Matthew 13:1-3, 10-17, 34-35

MESSAGE The Paradox of Parables

HYMN #451 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

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 #157 *Lord of the Dance*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

