



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—inspired by Psalm 46

The earth shakes, the mountains quake—
tempting our hearts to fear.

**God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.**

Storms rage, winds swirl.

**Still, God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.**

Struggle and conflict comes to light
in our communities
and violence continues around the world—
causing us to wonder
if our prayers for peace are futile.

**Yet God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.**

For those mourning and rebuilding after
the storms,

God is their refuge.

For those trying to love neighbor
and work for reconciliation.

God is their strength.

For the distraught and displaced
in our country and elsewhere,

**God is a very present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear,
for the Lord of Hosts is with us, and
everyone.**

HYMN #275 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

—in celebration of All Saints' Day

**You are our God and we are your people,
and we are grateful that you have claimed
us**

as your own.

**You have set us in the company
of saints past and present,
among those who have made bold
witness**

to your goodness and truth.

**Write the stories of your people
deep into our hearts
so that we may learn to trust you
beyond our fears.**

**Give us hearts and minds and spirits
ready to trust and follow
wherever your Spirit leads,
confident that you will not lead us
beyond your loving embrace.**

RESPONSE #610 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

We are good at rules: making them
and then breaking them!

Paul reminds us that,
when we gain Christ Jesus as our Savior,
we receive exactly what we need—
forgiveness, grace, hope.

Let us bring our confession to God,
that we might know God's healing love for
us!

Let us pray:

**Loving God, if we were to name all the
gods we have before you, we would be
here a very long time. We elevate
politicians into saviors, though they are as
broken as we are. We misuse your name
so much during the day, we have trouble
speaking to you in prayer at night.**

**We are so distracted and busy,
we do not notice how creation witnesses
to your goodness and grace.
Forgive us, God our hope. Help us to let
go of what we value most, so we may
open our hearts, our lives to the healing
and loving presence of Jesus Christ,
our Savior.**

(time for silent reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—based on
2Corinthians 5:17

Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours
out grace and joy into our lives, healing
our brokenness,
forgiving our sin.

**Loved, we are sent to love;
Forgiven, we are freed to forgive;
Graced, we can offer our gifts
to everyone we meet.**

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #308 *O God in Whom All Life Begins*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Acts 9:1-9
Philippians 3:4-16

MESSAGE Garbage and Grace

HYMN #686 *God of Our Life*

REPORT FROM SESSION

**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 #543 *O Christ, Surround Me*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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