MAPLEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH May 7, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

-adapted from Psalms 19 and 100

This is the day that the Lord has made,

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The heavens and earth declare the glory of God—

not in words but in a glorious technicolor show of blossoms and buds and light; every day declares in wordless language that God, Creator God, made it all.

Look at the birds of the heaven, Jesus says, take a lesson from them.

We set aside worry and fear, and set our attention on the goodness of God, and the abundance that surrounds us.

Enter God's presence now in worship with thanksgiving and praise.

HYMN #664 Morning Has Broken

PRAYER OF PRAISE—from Psalm 150

Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

RESPONSE #610 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

Forgive us, we pray, for our fearfulness, as we tend to rely more upon our own illusions of control and satisfaction, even though we know that they are illusions. Forgive us for not trusting in your grace, in your abundance, and in the covenant promises that you have renewed with every generation. In Christ, may we learn to love you with our whole heart, and learn to live in the flow of your grace and peace.

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Psalm 145:8-9

The Lord is gracious and full of mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all he has made.

Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, comes so that we might know God's mercy and love. We have been graciously granted the privilege and joy of being included in God's reconciling work on earth. So, by the power of the Holy Spirit may we live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

May it be so. Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #308 O God in Whom All Life Begins

SCRIPTURE READING Jonah 3:1-4:5 Matthew 20:1-16

MESSAGE Parables of Jesus: It Isn't Fair!

HYMN #515 I Come with Joy

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

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 #761 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

