



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord, all people;
let the sound of God's praise be heard!

Great is God's power!
Creator of the universe,
whose breath gives life,
whose hands create beauty,
whose love brings freedom,
whose glory fills the earth,
to you we bring our praise this morning.

HYMN #386 *Come, Worship God*

PRAYER OF PRAISE—based on Mark 4:35-41

**Mighty God, who speaks a word of peace to calm
our troubled sea;**
**Caring God, who nudges us away from fear and
toward faith;**
**Ever-present God, who offers us peace
but also raises many questions
without easy answers;**
open our eyes to see you in our boat—today;
**strengthen our hearts for the challenges that lie
ahead;**
open our ears to hear the word you speak.

RESPONSE #123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Magic Penny*
- MPC Sunday Schoolers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

God of creation, God of life, we come to you as
people hungry for good news. We have been so
blind to miracles that we have missed the world's
rebirth.

We have preoccupied ourselves with trivialities and
overlooked the wonders of your presence with us.
We have been so focused on differences that we
lose sight of our common humanity. Forgive us,
gracious God. Open our eyes to see clearly; open
our hearts to receive your grace, and to share it.

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Ephesians 2:13, 16, 19

*In Jesus you who were once far off have been
brought near by the redemption of Christ.
In him we have been reconciled to God
through the cross,
made citizens with the saints and members
of the household of God.*

Hear, then, the good news that in Jesus Christ we are
forgiven, reconciled, and given the grace to be
peace-makers in the world.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

MESSAGE The Fruit of the Spirit:
The Comfort and Challenge of Peace

HYMN #378 *We Wait for the Peaceful Kingdom*

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 #753 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE