



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—from Psalm 46: 1-3, 6-11

God is our refuge and our strength,
an ever-present help in distress.

**Though the earth trembles,
and mountains quake,
we will not fear.**

Waters may rise and roar,
and mountains shake;
but the God of hosts is with us--
our stronghold, the mighty God.

**Even if nations are in chaos, and kingdoms fall,
God's voice resounds; the earth steadies.**

The Lord is with us;
God is our stronghold.
Come! See the deeds of the Lord,
the marvellous things God has done on earth.
God issues the invitation:
*"Be still! and know that I am God,
exalted among the nations, exalted upon the
earth."*

**The Lord is with us;
our stronghold is the mighty God.**

HYMN #275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

PRAYER OF PRAISE—from Matthew 8:23-27
and Psalm 46:10

**O God who is greater
than the most powerful forces in this world,
enable us to be still and know that you are God.
O Lord who answers
out of the whirlwind of everyday life,
breathe in us your Holy Spirit
to strengthen, comfort,
and guide us in the midst of the storms of life.
O still, small voice, speak to us this hour
that we might become makers of your peace
in our homes, in our communities, in our world.
We pray all this in the name of the One
who calmed the raging sea. Amen.**

RESPONSE #184 *Calm to the Waves*
(sung through twice)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**Merciful God, we share the conviction of the
Psalmist that you are our stronghold in times of
trouble, and we rejoice over the evidence of
such care for us and for all people. Yet, we
confess how easily we identify with the fear of
the disciples when they were caught in the
storm; like them, our faith falters and our fear
heightens when life becomes turbulent. We fail
to remember that Jesus demonstrated the
power that can bring peace even into the
stormiest situations. We forget that Jesus is in
our midst calming our fears and strengthening
us when we feel vulnerable and fearful and
weak. Gracious God, forgive our lack of
faith. Renew and strengthen us in the living
Christ so that we can live encouraged and
empowered by his presence.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Isaiah 30:15

*“For thus says the Lord your God:
In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your
strength.”*

Any and every time we turn to God, and rest in God, we are received with open arms. God’s mercy flows, consistently and abundantly. Friends, receive the forgiving love of God, and entrust your life, and our world, to God’s great care.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #821 *How Can I Keep from Singing*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 8:23-27
Psalm 46

MESSAGE Perspective and Peace

HYMN #819 *Be Still, My Soul*

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 #815 *Give to the Winds Thy Fears*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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