



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

—from Revelation 11:15 and Psalm 95:2-3

When all is said and done:  
*“The kingdoms of this world shall  
become the Kingdom of our God,  
and of his Christ,  
and he shall reign forever and ever.*

Therefore:

*“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful sound to God  
with songs of praise!  
for the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all!”*

**HYMN #41 O Worship the King**

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**—from Psalm 98:4-9

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!  
Sing praises to the Lord with stringed instruments  
and with the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.  
Let the sea roar and all that fills it,  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the Lord...  
He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.*

**RESPONSE #266 Joy to the World**

*Note: this familiar Christmas carol by Isaac Watts was not written specifically for Christmas but as a paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9, which we just prayed together. Watts did intend it to reflect the notion of the coming King, which applies both to Christmas and to the final triumphant return of Christ. The tune we are singing this morning is not the usual one we know, but a tune that will help us reflect on the words in a new way.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION**

**Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the field of your world, and like plants we grow and are nourished by your sun and rain. We thank you for how graciously and tenderly you care for us and help us to grow and bear fruit.**

**Forgive us for the times when we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in “our” field. Forgive us when we label, categorize, and dismiss others as bad, or evil.**

**And when we are afraid to look into the field of our own life to see what is growing there, help us to know that you do not judge us, but that you lovingly tend to the garden of our soul to bring out the best in us.**

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**—from Romans 8:37-39

*“In all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.  
For I am convinced that neither death nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers, nor powers,  
nor height nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**Thanks be to God!**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Psalm 37:1-8  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

**MESSAGE** Being Good Wheat

**HYMN #753 *Make Me A Channel of Your Peace***

**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 #750 *Goodness is Stronger than Evil*  
(sung through twice)**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

