# MAPLEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP—from Psalm 118:1, 14

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

#### God's steadfast love endures forever!

lovember 5, 2023

The Lord is our strength and our song;

#### God is our hope and our salvation!

This is the day the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

HYMN #35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

**EXPRESSIONS OF THANKSGIVING** 

**RESPONSE #606** *Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow* 

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION —based on 1Corinthians 12

Generous God, you have given each of us gifts,

but sometimes we cannot recognize or affirm what gift we have to share, so we hide it under a bushel.

You remind us that all gifts are needed,

but sometimes we let ourselves be convinced that some gifts are more special than others.

You call us to work, to live, to love, together, as integral parts of one body,

but sometimes we decide that inclusion in the body is limited by our understandings.

Gracious God, for the times we have ignored or mislabeled your gifts, for those times we have cut another off from the body, we offer our confession, and ask for your forgiveness. our strong and faithful savior. Amen.

(silent prayer and reflection)

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is the giver of many gifts. God is the creator of the one body. God is slow to anger and quick to forgive. God helps us to share and honor the gifts of all, God helps us to heal the wounds and reunite the body. We are forgiven, loved, and accepted.

Thanks be to God!

#### PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #803 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1Cor. 12:4-7 Exodus 3:7-14 & 4:1-5

MESSAGE What God Wants to Know: What is That in Your Hand?

#### HYMN #509 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

#### **CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**

Come, all you who are loved by God! Christ invites all to trust in him and to dine at his table. Come to receive all the benefits and blessings of his atoning death, his life-giving resurrection, and his ascended lordship.

We come to the table not just as individuals but as a community. By sharing the bread and the cup, Christ makes us one with him and with each other.

Just as we are nourished by the food we eat, Christ nourishes us spiritually at this table with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. At the Lord's Supper we look *back*, remembering the story of our salvation; we look *around*, seeing that we are together members of the body of Christ; we look *forward* to the great banquet in God's coming kingdom; and we look *within* to find our indwelling Lord, who promises to feed us by the Holy Spirit.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! Let us give thanks: Lift up your hearts.

#### We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

#### 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 #716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

#### BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE