



**PRELUDE** *Wherever You Go (Song of Ruth)*,  
by Gregory Norbet  
- Ian Alvarez, brass solo

#### WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP—inspired by Ruth 1

Here in this place,  
there are no strangers or foreigners,

**for all are welcome in God's house,  
all have a role to play in the salvation story.**

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,

**for love is the language of faith.**

Here, there are no divisions,  
for God dwells in each of us,

**and the Spirit of God is the Spirit of unity.  
Come, let us worship in joy and in peace.**

#### HYMN #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

#### PRAYER OF PRAISE—based on Isaiah 43:19:

*"Behold, I am about to do something new;  
even now it is coming. Do you not see it?  
Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert."*

**Faithful God, God of new beginnings,  
we praise you for your faithfulness and  
your promise to do a new thing.  
We thank you for the reminder  
that you are the God  
who makes a way in the wilderness  
and provides water in the desert places.  
We know that you are not limited  
by the past or by present circumstances.**

You are the God who makes a way  
when there doesn't seem to be a way forward,  
and we trust that you are working even now  
to bring about something new in our lives  
and even in our world.

We ask that you open our eyes to see  
the new things you are doing,  
and that we may walk in the path  
that you are making for us.

With gratitude in our hearts  
We offer you our praise, and our trust.

**RESPONSE** *God Will Make a Way* (sung through twice)

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

Help us, O God, to see others as you see them,  
and to see ourselves as you see us.  
We admit before you our prejudices,  
our judgment of others,  
and our judgment even of ourselves.  
You invite us to be part of your story of salvation  
but we prefer to go our own way,  
seeing ourselves as insignificant in this story.  
Loving God, enlarge our capacity for truth and  
compassion,  
and help us to see the bigger picture.  
Save us from our individualistic view of  
others and of our ourselves,  
to recognize that we are all connected and we  
all have a part to play in your Kingdom work.

(silent prayer and reflection)

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE—Psalm 130:7-8

*O people, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with God is great power to redeem.  
It is the Lord who will redeem his people  
from all of their iniquities.*

In love and in faithfulness  
God directs us toward pathways to abundant life,  
God sets us in community with fellow pilgrims,  
God calls us to be peacemakers  
and restorers of hope.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### PASSING THE PEACE

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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Ruth 1:1-22 and 4:13-17

**MESSAGE** Women of the Bible: Ruth and Naomi

**HYMN #816** *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

**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 #722** *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *O Perfect Love,*  
by Dorothy Frances Gurney  
and Sir Joseph Barnby  
- Ian Alvarez, Chimes Variation