



**PRELUDE** Lift Every Voice and Sing,  
by James Weldon Johnson  
- David Little, piano

## WELCOME

**CALL TO WORSHIP**—based on Psalm 100

Come before the Lord with joyful songs,

**because God is good,  
because God is generous,  
because we lack nothing.  
Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.**

Come before the Lord with gratitude

**because God is faithful to his promises,  
because God's Word is eternal.  
Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.**

Know that the Lord is God,

**and we are God's people,  
God's community, God's family.  
Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.**

**HYMN #33** *Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show*

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

**It may seem naive, in a world of grief,  
to choose to live in joy.**

**It may seem foolish,  
in a world where solemnity is power,  
to sing and dance to a different tune.**

**It may seem cruel,  
in a world of suffering and injustice,  
to speak of light and celebration.  
But you have come, Jesus,  
to bring joy into our sadness,  
light into our darkness,  
singing into our mourning;  
and it is an act of healing and proclamation  
to trust in your love for us, and for all,  
and embrace the joy you offer.**

**Joy to the world!  
The Lord, Emmanuel,  
is with us!**

**RESPONSE #140** *Once in Royal David's City*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**Gracious God, at times we feel frail and fragile,  
getting blown about by the latest crisis,  
by bad news, by our own short tempers and  
failings.**

**You call us to hold fast to what is good,  
but so often we flounder, unable to find that  
solid thing that will center us again.**

**Help us, we pray.**

**Help us to see you as our center,  
and to cling to the good that you create in the  
world.**

**Help us to set aside all our jealousies and  
prejudices,**

**all of our judgments and injustices,  
all that adds to the world's hurt.**

**Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness,  
that we may bear his love and truth to the world.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**With God, nothing is impossible.  
God brings life from death,  
beauty from ashes,  
hope from despair.**

**God, your healer, strengthens you  
and sustains you, forgives you and  
blesses you so that others may be  
refreshed by your life.**

**Walk in God's love and  
see what God can do!**

**Thanks be to God!**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**HYMN #634** *To God Be the Glory*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Luke 2:41-51 and Luke 1:46-55

**MESSAGE** Women of the Bible:  
Mary, the Mother of Jesus

**HYMN #100** *Canticle of the Turning*

**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 #265** *Jesus Shall Reign*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord,  
from the Magnificat, J. S. Bach BWV 243  
- *Ian Alvarez, brass*