



PRELUDE *All Things Bright and Beautiful
All Creatures Great and Small
- David Little, piano*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome, friends, to this sacred time.

We come to offer thanks; we come to sing and pray.

Welcome, friends, to this time set apart,

**a time to remember who we are in Christ,
a time to remember the promises of God
and the mission we are called to fulfill.**

Welcome, friends, to the feast of God's grace,

**where we are welcomed just as we are,
and fed with just what we need for our journey.**

Welcome, friends, and let us worship God.

HYMN #667 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

PRAYER OF PRAISE—based on Psalm 145

**Sovereign Lord,
who is there like you in heaven or on the earth?
You alone are worthy of our praise.
And so we have come to worship you—
to praise your name,
to proclaim your power and glory,
to tell the stories of your goodness,
to sing of your faithfulness,
to remember your mercy and compassionate love—
to once again affirm that you are our God,
and that we are your people.**

**Through the power of your Holy Spirit
and the intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ,
open our eyes to your presence among us.
Open our hearts and minds to hear your voice,
to recognize your call,
and to faithfully follow where you lead.**

RESPONSE #42 *Your Faithfulness, O Lord, is Sure*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**For the times we are afraid of the stranger,
for the times we refuse the stranger
because we think our resources are just too meager,
Lord, forgive us.**

**For the times we stereotype the stranger
as dangerous,
as inferior somehow,
as enemy,
Lord, forgive us.**

**For the times we are too busy trying to impress
others—
the times we think we are being hospitable,
but instead serve only our own needs—
Lord, forgive us.**

**For the times we miss the gift of the stranger,
for the times we close our door in fear,
for the times we miss seeing your face
in the face of the other,
Lord, have mercy on us.**

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The welcoming grace of God is sure for each and for all.
Our dwelling place in God is secure.
Receive the forgiveness of God and be restored
to right relation with God and one another.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #774 *There Is Now a New Creation*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 145:8-19 and Luke 14:12-24

MESSAGE When God Throws a Party

HYMN #767 *Together We Serve*

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 #751 *From the Nets of Our Labor*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Lord Whose Life in Humble Service
(music from The Sacred Harp, 1844)
- Ian Alvarez, chimes variation