



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, God created all things;

and God saw that they were good.

At our beginning, God created us,

**unique and irreplaceable,
loved and wanted by God,
known and treasured by God.**

In all our new beginnings,
God creates something new.

**So we will seek God
in the freshness of this morning,
in the laughter of friends,
in the colors of creation,
and in this beautiful place.**

Loving God, King of Creation,

**open our eyes to see your presence,
our souls to sense your presence,
and our hearts to love your presence.**

HYMN #19 *God of Great and God of Small*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**Gracious God,
Your faithful love toward us never ends!
It is as sure and dependable
as the sky over our heads.
We've gathered together in this place
to offer you our praise and our gratitude;
to declare that you are our God,
and we are your people.
May your Spirit be at work
among us as we worship,
Opening our eyes to the light
of your presence among us. Amen.**

RESPONSE #682 *It Is Good to Sing Your Praises*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**Merciful One,
you know when we are afraid to love;
and you know when we are afraid
to let ourselves be loved.
Remind us again
that perfect love casts out such fears.
Surround us and strengthen us
with your perfect love, even in the face
of our fears and shortcomings,
our struggles and our sins.
Fill us with a love so strong,
with such growth toward becoming
who you created us to be,
That we may case aside our pride
and embrace the power of love—
to transform us,
and to become a transforming power
for others.**

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore, I have continued my faithfulness
to you."*

- Jeremiah 31:3

Beloved, nothing can separate you
from God's love in Christ Jesus!
You are loved with an everlasting love, and
you can count on the Faithfulness of God
being shown to you forevermore!

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #761 *Called as Partners in Christ's
Service*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 36:5-9
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

MESSAGE All About Agape
Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott

HYMN #693 *The Gift of Love*

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