



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has gathered us to this place,

**where we hear those stories which show us
what the kingdom of God is like.**

God summons us to this place,

**where we can learn how to serve our God
without reservation, or hesitation.**

God will send us from this place,

**to tell others of God's hopes and dreams,
so they, too, can choose to follow Jesus.**

HYMN #314 *Christ, Be Our Light*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Great is our God, and worthy of praise!
God's goodness knows no limit;
God's faithfulness toward us is boundless!

God, your majesty and glory
surround us here.

We've come together
to celebrate your presence,
and to offer songs of praise and worship.
We've come to rejoice in your mighty acts,
and to tell the story of your goodness
throughout history and in our own lives.

Move among us as we worship together;
may your Spirit guide and inspire
our thoughts and actions
as we spend this time in your presence.

RESPONSE #737 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My
Song*

CALL TO CONFESSION—from Hebrews 12:1-2

*"Therefore... let us throw off everything that
hinders and the sin that so easily entangles,
and let us run with perseverance the race
marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on
Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him endured the
cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at
the right hand of the throne of God."*

In the strength of this assurance, let us bring
our confession to God:

Lenten 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 your face in 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 #346 *For the Healing of the Nations*

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 #42 *Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John
20:21

