



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, let us praise God together  
in the company of his gathered people.

**You, O God, illumine our world  
with the light of a new day,  
dispelling darkness and bringing  
the freshness of new possibilities.**

We gather to receive strength, encouragement,  
and hope in God as we sing and pray.

**You, O God, illumine our lives  
with the light of your presence,  
dispelling fear, and bringing  
the freshness of renewed hope.**

Here, in this time, we can remember  
all the ways God has graced us:

**here, in this place and time,  
we are reminded that God is with us, always!**

**HYMN #610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing***

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**Loving, Creating, Creative God:  
we sing from our hearts throughout our days—  
morning, noon, and evening—  
and through the seasons of our lives,  
and all of the changes that life brings.**

**We sing from the depths of our sorrow.  
We sing from the abundance of our joy.  
We sing in voices separate and unique.**

**We sing with one voice as your community of faith,  
grateful for your presence with each of us  
throughout our days,  
and especially now as your gathered people.**

**RESPONSE #683 *Lord of All Hopefulness***

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION**

**Loving God, we come before you today confessing  
that we have often held a distorted image of you, a  
picture that does not reflect your true nature of  
love, grace, and mercy. We have sometimes  
perceived you as a harsh judge, a distant deity, or a  
being who is quick to anger, rather than the  
compassionate and understanding God that you  
truly are. Forgive us for allowing fears to color our  
understanding of you. Help us to see you as you  
truly are, revealed in Jesus Christ, so we can trust  
and serve you fully and freely, without reservation.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God assures us that we are equipped to love  
through the gifts and power of the Spirit of Christ.  
Let us go from this place with confidence and  
authority,  
knowing that God gives us strength  
to love our neighbors near and far.  
So be at peace, be strong and courageous,  
for God is with you always!

**Thanks be to God!**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**HYMN #684 *Faith Begins by Letting Go***

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Mark 6:7-13  
Matthew 25:14-30

**MESSAGE** Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:  
Risk-Taking Mission and Service

**HYMN (insert) *Let Your Heart Be Broken***

## 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 #733** *We All Are One in Mission*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**