



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—based on Psalm 92 and Psalm 95
Come, let us sing to God!

**Let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into the Divine presence with thanksgiving;

**let us make a joyful noise to God
with songs of praise!**

It is good to give you thanks, O God;

to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night.

For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

at the works of your hands we sing for joy!

HYMN #611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Gracious God,
in love you open wide the doors of love
and welcome us into your presence,
no matter who we are
or where we have come from.

You spread a table before us,
filled with the richest fare—
a feast of love and mercy
for the body and soul.

We come with joy to meet you here,
to celebrate your grace and mercy in our lives.
May your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgiving,
our prayers and petitions,
as we worship together in your presence.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our friend and Lord.

RESPONSE #630 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

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 cast 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 Hosea 11:1-4, 8
1John 4:7-10, 16-19

MESSAGE *Becoming Love*

HYMN #693 *The Gift of Love*

MOMENT FOR MISSION Thame Fuller,
Nourishing Network

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.

SONG #750 *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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