



PRELUDE In His Time
- David Little, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—based on Romans 8:26-27, *The Message*

We've gathered together in the presence of God to offer our praise and our prayers.

**We come before God with confidence,
knowing that even when we can't find the words,
God's own Spirit is right here with us,
praying in us and for us,
giving shape to our wordless hopes and longings,
and pleading for us before the throne of grace.**

So let's come with joy to offer our worship to God who knows and loves us all.

HYMN #353 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

—written by Jan Richardson, inspired by Romans 8:24-25

**Hope nonetheless.
Hope despite.
Hope regardless.
Hope still.**

**Hope where we had ceased to hope.
Hope amid what threatens hope.
Hope with those who feed our hope.
Hope beyond what we had hoped.**

**Hope that draws us past our limits.
Hope that defies expectations.
Hope that questions what we have known.
Hope that makes a way where there is none.**

**Hope that takes us past our fear.
Hope that calls us into life.
Hope that holds us beyond death.
Hope that blesses those to come.**

RESPONSE #250 *Hymn of Promise*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

—written by Thomas Merton

**My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I cannot see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But, I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire
in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this
you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost and
in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me
and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—based on Romans 8:31-38

Nothing is impossible with God!
There is no place you can stray
where God will not search for you
and find you.
There is nothing on earth or beyond death
that can separate you from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
You are forgiven.
You are loved.
You are reconciled to God.
Go and live in and with the love of God!

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Romans 8:18-28
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

MESSAGE What Time Is It?

HYMN (insert) *God of Creation, All Powerful*

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 #686 *To God Be the Glory*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Turn, Turn, Turn
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