



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Children of God: welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace;

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us  
to be a part of the beloved community;

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are.  
We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us praise God together!

**HYMN #667** *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

God of our lives, draw near to us  
as we open our hearts to you this morning.  
Quiet our fears, strengthen us in faith,  
and bless us with your grace.  
We offer our gratitude for the abundance  
that surrounds us day by day,  
and now here in this place.  
Receive our praise  
as we receive your Spirit's inspiration.

**RESPONSE #475** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION**  
—by Thomas Merton (1915—1968)

Uncrowd my heart, oh God,  
until silence speaks  
in your still small voice.  
Turn me from the hearing of words,  
and the making of words,  
and the confusion of much speaking,  
to listening  
waiting  
stillness  
silence.

(silent prayer and reflection)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Isaiah 30:15**

*"Thus says the Lord your God:  
in returning and rest you shall  
be saved;  
in quietness and trust shall be  
your strength."*

Beloved of God, hear the still small voice of God  
that speaks big and bold truth: you are loved,  
you are forgiven, you are made strong through  
the grace of God, in Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**HYMN #187** *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** Matthew 18:1-5  
Psalm 16

**MESSAGE** Everyday Mysticism:  
Living in the Present  
(Thomas Merton)

**HYMN (insert)** *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

**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 #546** *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**