



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP—from Psalm 100

Come before the Lord with joyful songs,
because he is good, and generous,
because we lack nothing.

**Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Serve the Lord with gladness,
because of God’s justice,
because God puts an end to war,
and to all forms of violence.

**Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Come before the Lord with joy
because God is faithful to his promises,
because his Word is eternal.

**Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Know that the Lord is God,
and we are his people,
his community, his family.

**Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

It is God who has made us
to the praise of his name,
and therefore today, in the same spirit,
we have a festival to celebrate his peace.

**Let us enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

HYMN #33 *Praise the Lord! God’s Glories Show*

PRAYER OF PRAISE—inspired by Psalm 65

God of life and love,
we rejoice in your abundant gifts.
God of all peoples and all places,
we celebrate your generosity and grace.
God of the earth and the heavens,
we praise you for your provision.
You visit the earth and water it
**softening it with showers
and blessing its growth.**
You make springs gush forth in the valleys,
**and from your lofty abode
you water the mountains.**
God of life and love,
we offer you our thanks and praise.

RESPONSE #37 *Let All Things Now Living*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

Loving God, again we confess our struggle
to be faithful disciples.
Entrusted with all your gifts,
we become fearful of using them,
missing the chance to be a blessing to others.
We often see you as harsh and demanding,
rather than kind and inviting.
Once again, open our eyes
to your kingdom in our midst,
and raise our awareness
of your heart of infinite grace,
so we may overcome fear, live into hope,
and experience the joy and adventure
of serving you.

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Psalm 145:8-9

In God’s Kingdom, all are loved for who they are.
God sees the good in you and calls it forth.
God renews and restores your life.
God invites you to be part of
his reconciling work on earth.
Receive God’s grace, be at peace,
love and serve your neighbor.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #19 God of Great and God of Small

SCRIPTURE READINGS Revelation 8:1-5
Luke 18:1-8

MESSAGE Parables of Jesus: Persevering in Prayer

HYMN #175 *Seek Ye First*

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 #80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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