

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 126)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

we were like those who dreamed.

Then our mouths were filled with laughter,

and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us.

Let us rejoice and give thanks!

GATHERING PRAYER

Faithful God, we give you thanks that nothing can separate us from your love. Receive us as beloved children so that we may enter your presence this day and abide with you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: #301 “Let Us Build a House”(All Are Welcome)

CALL TO CONFESSION

written by Rev. John Wurster

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ’s invitation. Let us seek God’s forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

written by Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagán-Banks

Gracious God, thank you for your love that never ceases, never despises, and never turns away a broken heart. We confess we haven’t always been kind, courteous, or loving to strangers. Sometimes not even to our own family and co-workers. Soften our hearts, dear God. Expand them. Heal them. We confess we have lacked courage and creativity in the struggle towards freedom for all. Help us to remember we are never alone and carry within us the power and brilliance of the Holy Spirit. Renew our strength and restore our joy, dear God. Increase it. Purpose it. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord. Selah.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

What are we that God is mindful of us? Who are we that God should care for us? Yet God now calls us beloved children; Jesus now claims us as sisters and brothers. This is the good news of God’s grace: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

#448

“Peace of God Be with You”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Leviticus 19:33-34

³³ When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴ The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

A Dramatic Reading of Genesis, Chapter 1 *adapted by Rev. Susan Williams*

SERMON

The Rev. Leslie Latham

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

THE OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord God, you have entrusted us with the works of your own hands. Now we return these gifts to you with thanksgiving and praise. Use them all for your glory and for the good of your world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

HYMN: #769 *"For Everyone Born"*

CHARGE

May God's welcome be a place of shelter for you; may Christ's welcome enfold you, and may the Spirit's welcome create community among all. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Hymns

“Let Us Build a House” (All Are Welcome)

Refrain:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place.

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions: (Refrain)

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)

5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions
heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)

“For Everyone Born”

Refrain:

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

1 For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead, (Refrain)

2 For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair, (Refrain)

3 For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong, (Refrain)

4 For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live, (Refrain)

5 For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, (Refrain)