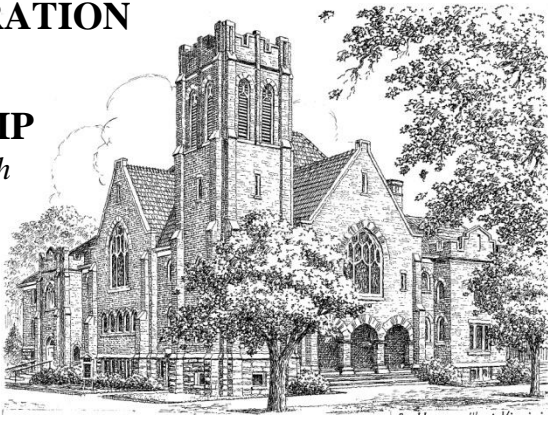


CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

*To shine with
the Light of
Jesus Christ
so that
others will
know and
love him*



+ *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

God of wondrous love, you have touched us and never left us in despair. You have held us in our grief and chaos. You have never deserted us.

You paid us a visit and your visit has never ended.

You clung to us when we were given up for dead.

In life and in death—you raise us anew!

This we know! This we experience!

This is your word of assurance!

God of wondrous love, touch us again in this time.

Stay with us—as we continue healing
our memories and lives. Thanks be to God.

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsively

We often feel as if we are wandering through our lives, searching for something we cannot name.

We come today to listen for hope, to pray for strength, and to experience God's love.

Speak to us of faith, hope, and love, O Lord.

As the deer longs for flowing water in the wilderness, we long to drink deeply of God's promise for us. Knowing God is here, we join together on our journey.

Lead us to your still waters, O Lord.

Imprisoned by rules of our own making, we come to remember and claim our faith. Assured by the vision of Christ, whose sacrifice leads us to heaven, we come in fellowship with one another.

Clothe us in the love of Christ, O Lord.

With shouts of praise and songs of thanksgiving, we come to celebrate the God of hope, the Spirit of peace, and the Christ of redeeming love.

We come to pray.

We come to sing.

We come to worship and praise.

+INVOCATION

Responsively

O God, you receive us when we turn to you; you heal us through the power of your loving forgiveness. Through your Spirit, enable us to show our love and gratitude by forgiving others.

In these moments of worship, deliver us from secret jealousy and desire for revenge, so that we may live in peace with you and with our sisters and brothers. We pray in the name of the One who forgives. Amen.

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION

UMH 139

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, vv. 1, 2, 5

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and against our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison

Lord of the ages, in our busy lives, we do not always make time to love, to pray, or to sing your praises. We want to be strong, yet we often feel out of control: battered by the winds of change, rocked by the earthquakes in our relationships, burned by the fires of doubt. Forgetting what we cannot see, we ask, "Why have you forgotten me?"

Help us trust your presence, even when we feel utterly alone, trapped in our dark night of the soul.

With the promise of Christ as our hope, lead us from our own wilderness wanderings into the well-tended garden of your saving grace.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The steadfast love of God is with you—yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Whether you turn away or doubt, whether you follow timidly or joyfully, you are loved and forgiven in Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Unison

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPONSE

My Tribute

UMH 99

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things he has done. With his blood he has saved me; with his power he has raised me; to God be the glory for the things he has done.

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME *UMH 122*

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale, v. 6

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart. How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?

WIGGLETIME

The children are invited to the Chancel.

THE WORD IN MUSIC

Chancel Choir

SERMON

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION

UMH 548

*In Christ There Is No East or West
(to the tune of 549, original tune)*

+BENEDICTION

In the spirit of God's unchanging love, live the stories of faith we have heard this day. In the melody of God's song within us, sing the faith we have received this day. In the hope of God's unfailing help, share the grace we have touched this day.

Go and tell the world how much God has done for us!

Alleluia! Amen.

+POSTLUDE

Go in peace and may the Love of God surround you everywhere you go.

...and the worship continues.



Your weakness and brokenness draw Me ever so near you. You can open up to Me because I understand you perfectly. My compassion for you is overflowing. As you open yourself to My healing Presence, I fill you with *Peace that transcends understanding*. So stop trying to figure everything out. Instead, lean on Me, letting your head rest on My chest. While you rest, I will be watching over you and all that concerns you. Trust Me in the depths of your being, where I live in union with you. My healing work in you is most effective when you are actively trusting me. *Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing Love for you will not be shaken*. This is the essence of My compassion for you: No matter how desperate your circumstances, the one thing you can always count on is *My unfailing Love*.

*Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord
With all your heart and mind and do not rely on
Your won insight or understanding.*

-Proverbs 3:5 AMP

-from Jesus Lives, p. 22.

Thanks, Dad!

