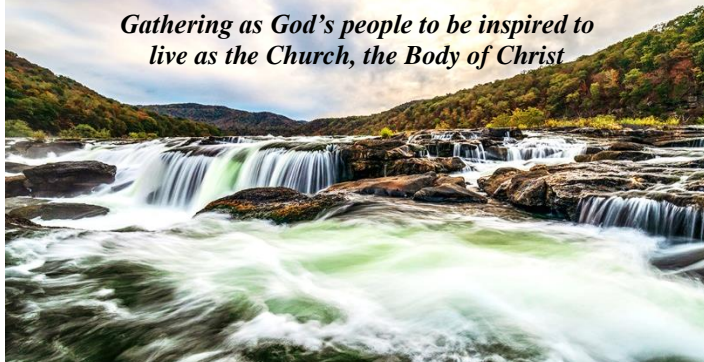


CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

*Gathering as God's people to be inspired to
live as the Church, the Body of Christ*



+ Those who are able are invited to stand.

UMH-United Methodist Hymnal FWS-The Faith We Sing

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

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP

Never has the world had a greater need for love than in our day. People are hungry for love. We don't have time to stop and smile at each other. We are always in such a hurry!

Pray. Ask for the necessary grace.

Pray to be able to understand how much Jesus loves us, so that you can love others...

God of love, take hold of us in this time of worship, and do not let us go until we have been blessed by a vision of love, infinitely generous, gentle and forgiving, simple, wholesome, mysterious, profound, in which all are accepted, and no one rejected,

Love that never ends.

Living God, Lord of Love,

live in our hearts now and forever...

Thanks be to God! Welcome to Worship!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Renee Warner

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE

Dan Martin

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *UMH 94*

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*

Our lives are in the care of God.

God has given us abundance and hope.

This day we have come to praise and thank God for all that God has done for us.

We gather to celebrate God's love and to offer our lives in service.

Come, let us open our hearts to the Lord!

Let us rejoice in God's goodness and love.

+INVOCATION

Loving and forgiving God, be present with us now, as we offer praise and thanksgiving for the abundance we have received through your grace. You have gathered us in, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south, to be your people. Like a loving parent, you have sustained our needs—sharing your love with us, satisfying our thirst, and filling our hunger with good things. Help us, Lord, to heed your call, that we might find deliverance through Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION *UMH 100*

God, Whose Love Is Reigning o-er Us, vv. 1, 2, 5

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

THE PSALTER

Psalms 107:1-9, 43

CALL TO CONFESSION

Already assured that forgiveness is ours in Jesus Christ, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, that we might receive mercy and amend our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Unison*

Gracious God, in our wanderings and selfish desires: we have forsaken fellowship with our families, our friends, and our neighbors; we have neglected our communion with you, choosing worldly pleasures and desires over truth, justice, and righteousness. In a world of plenty, we have hoarded our earthly blessings, rather than storing up our heavenly treasures. Free us from such bondage, that we may truly reveal the presence of Christ in our lives.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS *Responsively*

In faith, we call out to a loving and forgiving God, seeking to put aside our old life, and put on Christ. God surely answers our prayers.

In the name of Christ Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE *FWS 2036*

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong;" let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks!

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME *UMH 557*

We Are the Church, v. 2

Refrain: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

2. We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places. refrain

WIGGLETIME

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER *UMH 357*

Just as I Am, Without One Plea, v. 3

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Responsively*

[A time of silence follows each intercession.]

God of heaven and earth, in your wisdom you made the whole creation and called it good.

You have lavished your creatures with beauty and sustained us with your grace.

Even so, we are distracted and seduced and wreak havoc on the world you made.

Humbly, then, we pray to you for comfort and healing and peace, saying,

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For those who declare war, those who wage it, and those who suffer from it . . .

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For your church, that we may overcome divisions and live in the unity given to us in Christ . . .

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For your creation, that the earth's wounds may be healed, and we may become better caretakers . . .

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For those who fight despair, struggle with addiction,

or live without hope . . .

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For those who are ill, and all who care for them . . .

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For the secret burdens of our hearts . . .

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

Grateful for your mercy, we entrust these and all our prayers to you, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

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.

ANTHEM *Chancel Choir*

SERMON *Rev. Steven Meadows*

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION *UMH 261*

Lord of the Dance

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.

