

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP



Gathering as God's people to be inspired to live as a community 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

I AM your strength and shield. I plan out each day and have it ready for you, long before you arise from bed. I also provide the strength you need each step of the way. Instead of assessing your energy level and wondering about what's on the road ahead, concentrate on staying in touch with Me. My Power flows freely into you through our open communication. Refuse to waste energy worrying, and you will have strength to spare. Whenever you start to feel afraid, remember that I am your Shield. But unlike inanimate armor, I am always alert and active. My Presence watches over you continually, protecting you from both known and unknown dangers. Entrust yourself to My watchcare which is the best security system available. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. -Psalm 28:7

Jesus Calling, p. 32.

Thanks Be to God! Welcome to Worship!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE

Dan Martin

SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Acolytes

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

UMH 145

Morning Has Broken, v. 1

Morning has broken like the first morning;

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsively

Come and hear the Good News.

No matter what is happening in your life, God's blessing and love is with you.

Come and hear what God wants you to do:

live lives of justice and love and truth.

Come and find courage and strength to follow Jesus, embracing Kingdom values rather than those of the world.

We're here, ready to listen, open to change, expecting to be blessed by our time together.

+OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we come together seeking to abide in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace.

May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you.

Amen.

+HYMN OF PRAISE

FWS 2236

Gather Us In

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 6:1-8

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader

Let us confess our sins, for the Holy One delights in blessing those who seek to walk with God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison

God, we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We do not keep your word, and when we participate in gossip, our words and deeds cause pain. Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Jesus Christ and walk in the light of his love.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader

Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven by the faith of Christ, who shows love over hatred and forgiveness over blame. Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is great; Jesus brings healing, justice, and peace.

Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

UMH 420

Breathe on Me, Breath of God, vv. 1,2

- 1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou doest love, and do what thou wouldst do.**
- 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.**

THE CHURCH LISTENS

THE WORD

SONG AT CHILDREN'S SERMON

UMH 707

Hymn of Promise, v. 1

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

WIGGLETIME

Following Wiggletime, the Children are invited to join the Leaders in Linger Hall for CHILDREN'S CHURCH

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER *UMH 707*

Hymn of Promise, v. 2

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, whose wisdom surpasses our understanding, help us to grow as a people of blessing as we offer our prayers for the church and the world.

We pray for those who mourn; may they know the comfort of your abiding presence.

We pray for the meek; may they receive the goodness of your earth.

We pray for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness; may they be filled with goodness.

We pray for those who are merciful' may they also receive mercy.

We pray for the pure I heart; may they see you face to face.

We pray for the peacemakers; may they be recognized as your children.

We pray for those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness; may they know the protection of your realm.

We rejoice this day and give thanks for the many blessings of this life and for the gift of heaven which is ours even now. May we have the wisdom to pursue your truth and the courage to do what is holy and right.

We ask all this in the name of the One who is our light and our life, and 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.

THE WORD IN MUSIC *Chancel Choir*

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

**THE CHURCH SCATTERS
TO SHARE GOOD NEWS**

+HYMN OF DEDICATION *UMH 430*
O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*
Those who live lives pleasing to God shall not be moved.

Go now to embrace the kingdom values—values of love, justice, and truth.

Go now with God's blessing, to live those values through the power of our challenging, faithful, loving, empowering God.

Amen.

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.

