



+ Those who are able are invited to stand.

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS – The Faith We Sing

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

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

Be with us, O Spirit, and form us as witnesses to the love of God in Christ. Grace us with your power, so that we may embody this love for those who long for the gift of presence, the hope of acceptance, and the mercy of compassion. Amen.

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

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 94*

Doxology

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*

We are God's own people, believing in the name of Jesus Christ and sharing in Christ's glory. Let us celebrate the love of God who sent Jesus to die for

us, be raised again on the third day, and ascend to reign at the right hand of God. Let us give thanks for the great unbounded love of God that makes us one with Jesus Christ as Jesus Christ is one with God. Thanks be to God.

The Lord reigns! Let the earth rejoice, let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around the Lord's righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's reign.

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds; rejoice before the One whose name is the Lord.

O Rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens: we listen to the thunder of God's mighty voice. Awesome is the God of Israel, who gives power and strength to the people.

Blessed be God! Alleluia!

+INVOCATION

God of love, we are the community of life you gave to Jesus Christ, we thank you for the work you sent him to do. Help us to pray together as the disciples did, waiting on the Spirit. Help us to act in love and unity so all may know that Jesus came, loving the world, as you love him. Help us bring your justice to the powerless and your care to those without resources. In all things, we glorify your name, for we share in the glory of Jesus your Son in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 66*

Praise, My Soul the King of Heaven

THE CHURCH CONFESSES

THE PSALTER *Psalms 47*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord knows everyone's heart; God knows that, like a roaring lion, our adversary prowls around us. If we turn to God in humility and sincerity, God will

strengthen and forgive us. Let us cast all our anxiety on God who cares for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Responsively*

God our strength and shield, your face shines on those who love justice and reject evil: Give us grace to work for your goodness and forsake wrongdoing; free us from being bound by anger and fear; alert us to acts that harm or exploit your children; teach us to discipline ourselves in love; stop us from doing anything that dishonors your name.

Give us courage to face the hosts of evil round us and the selfishness and pride that threaten us within. Protect us in the name of Jesus, who came to give eternal life.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

By his death on the cross for our sins, Jesus was humbled and then exalted, raised from death, and given a name that is above every other name. We know also that if we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, God will exalt us in due time. God's name be praised. **Amen.**

RESPONSE *UMH 405*

Seek Ye First, v. 1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

THE CHURCH LISTENS

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO CHILDRENS SERMON

The First Song of Isaiah *FWS 2030*

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

WIGGLETIME

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

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER *UMH 405*

Seek Ye First, v. 2

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

INTERCESSORY PRAYER *Responsively*

The Lord be with you. Let us give thanks to the living God who listens and hears our prayers.

We praise and we bless you, our true and loving God.

We pray for all who search for you: may they find their way in you. Bless us with voices that sing your praise and lives that tell the stories of all that you have done for us. Open our eyes to find you among us as we share your love with others.

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who live lives of oppression: for those whose voices are not heard or believed, those with no one on their side. Bless us with a joy for justice and the strength to persevere as we work toward your coming realm.

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who hunger, and those who worry each day how they will care for their families. We pray for those who work long hours for unfair pay, and for those who have no employment. Bless us all with meaningful work and fill us with good things, as we love and care for each other and find our sustenance in you.

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer the violence and scars of war, for all soldiers and their families, and all who live and serve in war-torn places. Give them courage in the face of fear; in times of trouble, do not let their feet slip. Bless

us with your vision of peace, for you have made us one family by giving life and breath to all.

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We remember before you all who have died, and pray for all who will die today, that they may know your peace. We pray for the heart-broken, for those who live with a mountain of grief, and for those who are caregivers whose strength to care comes from the strength you supply. Bless us with the gift of faith, that we may know that our help comes from you, that we may know you and love you, and enjoy life eternal shared with you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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*

Awesome God *Rich Mullens, arr. Alan Moore*

SERMON *Rev. Steve*

THE CHURCH SCATTERS AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

+HYMN OF COMMITMENT *UMH 715*

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

+SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

+ BENEDICTION *Pastor*

Once we searched and groped for God in Darkness. Now we reside with Christ in glorious light. Once we worried that God was far from us. Now we rejoice that God is closer to us than our very breath. Once we yearned for God's love and acceptance. Now we dwell in communion with God and with one another.

Amen.

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.

