



+ Those who are able are invited to stand.
You are invited to respond with the **Bold** responses.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

Spiritual disciplines teach us to live our lives in harmony with something larger than ourselves and larger than that which the world values as ultimate. ...Joan Chittister puts it this way, "All we have in life is life. Things—the cars, houses, educations, jobs money—come and go, turn to dust between our fingers, change and disappear....the secret of life...is that life must be developed from the inside out. Living in the presence of and in harmony with the living God who is made known in Jesus Christ...is to live life from the inside out...to find our moral direction, wisdom, courage, strength to live faithfully from the One who called us, sustains us... -Reuben Job
YOU BELONG HERE. WELCOME 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 99*
My Tribute

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.

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*
Independence Day is this week.

We celebrate a time when our country declared its independence from foreign domination.

But many things dominate our hearts: fear, apathy, intolerance, anger.

May God hear our celebrations and our cries for help.

Remember how God has blessed you and be a blessing to others.

Lord, keep our hearts and minds open to your Word and your way.

+INVOCATION *Renee Warner*

God of freedom and miracles, we wait for your voice and direction this morning. We are so busy with the holiday celebrations and gatherings, yet words of anguish arise around us. News of tragedy and war blare at us from all directions. Hear our cries, O Lord. Come and comfort and heal our wounds. Open our hearts this day that we might become people who bring peace and hope to those in despair. For we ask these things in the name of the master healer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 698*
God of the Ages (National Hymn)

THE CHURCH AFFIRMS ITS FAITH

THE PSALTER *Psalms 121*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Unison*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the

right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONSE *UMH 715*
Rejoice, the Lord is King, 1, 2 & 4

THE CHURCH SHARES ITS BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Paul challenged the church to recognize their abundance, that they might share with those in need. God calls us to give out of our bounty, that all might have enough to live on without fear. With joyful and thankful hearts, let us joyfully give out of our abundance.

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Unison*

Gracious God, we thank you for our abundance and for the many blessings you have given upon this community. We thank you for our faith, for our knowledge of you, and for the assurance of your love. May all these gifts be a blessing to those in need. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Dan Martin*

+DOXOLOGY *UMH 94*

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!

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME UMH 277

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, v. 2

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee, and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me; words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

WIGGLETIME

Following Wiggletime, the children are invited to Children's Church.

CALL TO PRAYER UMH 453

More Love to Thee, O Christ, v. 1

More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee! Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee. This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Responsively*

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, Loving-Healing-Caring, hear our prayer.

As we thank you for all your love, your holy presence, your loving acceptance, it comforts us to know you care for us.

All around us are loving-affirming people, people who love you, care for you, and serve you.

Thank you, Lord, for those here who strengthen our faith—who share the ministry of your Word.

We pray, Lord, for a renewal of spirit, a healing of our body, and we praise you, Lord, for the victories that have been won by your power.

Lord, be with those who call upon you for help in the deep times of their lives.

Help me—and all those around me—to fix our eyes—our minds on Jesus Christ, and to remember that you are the Lord of our life and the Lord of our death.

Living we serve you. Dying we are with you. Dispel our fears and fill us with a confidence that you are God always, now, and forever, even where we do not understand the forever.

Thank you, Lord, for being near. Hear those concerns and prayers that come from the hidden, dark depths of our heart.

PERSONAL PRAYER

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
Director: Eva Atha*

SERMON *Renee Warner
Ministry Assistant*

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO SHARE GOOD NEWS

+HYMN OF DEDICATION UMH 117
O God, Our Help in Ages Past

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*
Help us be mindful of the many ways in which we can reach out to others. By our attitudes and our actions, may we be those who would bring hope, comfort, healing, and peace. God, bless us this day as we go from this place. May our celebrations be joyous and memorable and may our service to others reflect your love and peace. **Amen.**

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.

