



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, the houses, the educations, the jobs, the money—come and go, turn to dust between our fingers, change and disappear.... the secret of life...is that it 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 and companions us in the Holy Spirit is to live life from the inside out. It is to find our moral direction, our wisdom, our courage, our strength to live faithfully from the One who authored us, called us, sustains us, and sends us into the world as witnesses who daily practice the way of living with Jesus. -Three Simple Rules, Reuben Job, p. 54.

Thanks be to God! Welcome to Worship!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Carolyn Brown*

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 140*
Great Is Thy Faithfulness, v. 1

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*

Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?

God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?

When threats bombard you from every corner, stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?

God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more, what do you say?

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us, welcoming us to come home to God and one another.

Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love.

+INVOCATION *Responsively*

Lord, we come to you this morning with so many concerns and issues that demand our attention. Our lives are burdened; our spirits are tired.

Guide our lives and our steps as we walk this Lenten journey, inward and outward. Help us to

discern what you would have us do, that others may be healed. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

+HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 100*
God Whose Love Is Reigning O’er Us

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

THE PSALTER *Psalms 27*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Responsively*

There is a certain winter in our spirits today, O Lord. We feel that the journey on which we have embarked will demand too much of us. There are so many other things in our lives which claim our spirits, our energy, our hopes and fears. It is easy to be like Jerusalem, turning our backs on those whom you send. The world shouts its solutions to us and then deserts us when we are in need.

Forgive us for the many times in which we have strayed from your pathway of life; when we have chosen not to hear the cries of those in need; when we have belittled the gifts and skills you have given us in order to avoid serving others. Heal us, O Lord. Place us back on your path to Jerusalem, to live, for we ask this in Jesus’ name.

PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

When God called your name, God called you to a journey of faith. Do not be afraid to look inside to see those things which are holding you back from being who God created you to be. Place your trust in God who is always with you, loving you into wholeness.

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.

