



MOMENTS OF CENTERING

Rest in Me, My child. This time devoted to me is meant to be peaceful, not stressful. You don't have to perform in order to receive My Love. I have boundless, unconditional Love for you. How it grieves Me to see My children working for Love: trying harder and harder, yet never feeling good enough to be loved. Be careful that your devotion to Me does not become another form of works. I want you to come into My Presence joyfully and confidently. You have nothing to fear, for you wear My righteousness. Gaze into My eyes, and you will see no condemnation, only Love and delight in the one I see. Be blessed as My Face shines radiantly upon you, giving you Peace. *The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.* -Zephaniah 3:17 *-from Jesus Calling, p. 270.*

THE CHURCH GATHERS IN 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 400*
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, v. 1
Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
 - +CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*
When forces in the world threaten us, when our bodies or spirits turn against us, there is One who seeks us, One who meets us, One who heals us, whose love washes over us and sets us free for joy. This One is the Lord.
Come, let us worship God.
 - +INVOCATION *Leader*
God of abundant grace, may your Holy Spirit be with us now as we worship you this day. Open our eyes to truly see one another, that we might discover your presence in the smile of a neighbor. Open our ears to the needs of the world, so that we might hear your wisdom in the words spoken around us. And open our hearts to your grace and love, that we might find guidance and strength for the journey, for ourselves and for one another. **Amen.**
 - +OPENING HYMN *UMH 66*
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
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- THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION
- THE PSALTER *Psalms 14*
- PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Responsively*
Gracious and loving God, we find it difficult at times to place our trust in you. Too often we look at the world, and see only violence, pain, destruction, and signs of hopelessness and despair. Too often we rely on our own strength, our own plans, our own devices,

- rather than trusting in your hand to hold us, your love to sustain us, and your wisdom to see us through.
Forgive us, Holy One.
 - Help us turn to you when we are lost so that we might find our way home. Help us navigate the treacherous waters of this world, so that we might experience your abundant grace, mercy, and love. Help us put our trust in you, that the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus may shine in our lives for all to see.**
 - PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION
 - ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *Responsively*
Jesus said, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."
My friends, experience God's forgiveness and joy—gifts that leads to new life!
Thanks be to God. Amen.
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- THE CHURCH RESPONDS WITH GIFTS
- OFFERTORY INVITATION & PRAYER
- 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!
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- THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD
- THE WORD
- RESPONSE *The First Song of Isaiah FWS 2030*
(The children are invited to the Chancel for Wiggletime,)
Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my strong-hold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

WIGGLETIME ...then, off to Children's Church

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER UMH 397

I Need Thee Every Hour, v. 3
**I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.
I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Spirit of life, we pray for your scattered children: for families who are trying their best, for families who fail each other and fail you, for the people who are troubled, for those trying to find the first steps to rebuilding their lives, whose heartbreak is becoming old news, whose loss is relentless.

We pray for all who cannot rest in safety, who must remain alert to signs of danger because of war or because their homes are torn by violence or because they have no shelter but the street. *(Pause)* Help us to move with compassion toward those who are in need.

We pray for neighbors who are troubled in mind or body or spirit: for mothers who face hard illness, for brothers haunted by anxious thoughts, for children who do not know whom they can trust. In the silence of our hearts, we lift the names we know and the faces we see into the light of your love; *(silence)* Search them out; bring them home.

We thank you for each sign of your stirring: For the chatter of children, the lingering sunlight, the knitting of broken bones, the healing of raw nerves, and the recovery of laboring hearts...
You are present in each reminder of life's grace.

Patient and persistent God, let that grace and mercy overflow from our lives that we might honor your name in the world; for we pray in the name of Jesus, who came to seek and save the lost, 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.

ANTHEM *Chancel Choir*
 Eva Atha, director

SERMON *Rev. M. Steven Meadows*

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO
SHARE GOOD NEWS
+HYMN OF PRAISE UMH 368
 My Hope Is Built

+SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*
 Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

+BENEDICTION AND BLESSING
Today, O God, we praise you, for we know that you are Alpha, the beginning of all things, and Omega, the end, and all that is between.
We have known your healing.
We have known your provision.
We have known your victory.
Our sorrow has turned into dancing and our tears to songs of joy.
May God bless you with the sight to recognize the world as it is, the hope to dream God's dream together, and the power to make God's dream a reality here and now. **Amen.**

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.

