



*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 **Bold** responses.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

O gentle God, take this new day that you have given us into your own keeping. Direct our thoughts and feelings. Guide our energies, instruct our minds, strengthen our wills. Take our hands and make them skillful to serve you. Take our feet and make them swift to do your bidding.

Take our eyes and keep them fixed upon your everlasting beauty. Take our lips and make them strong in testimony of your love. Take our deeds and make them fit for your kingdom. Be with all who suffer pain this day and with all who rejoice with gladness. Keep us all in the sure knowledge that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus, in whose name we offer all our prayers. Amen.

—Ronald M. McCauley

THANKS BE TO GOD! 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

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Responsively

We come together, a community of faith.

We have gathered to talk and listen to God.

May our faces shine in hope.

God has invited us to this moment of worship.

We share in a new covenant of promise and trust.

Our spirits have been set free for worship and praise.

We come with boldness to encounter our Creator.

We assemble here, eager to be changed by God.

Our fears melt into awe and wonder before God.

Our failures become opportunities for learning.

Let us praise God's holy name in chorus.

Let us share in the glory of life. What a gift!

+THE INVOCATION

Leader

Remind us of your presence, God. We lay down the knowledge gathered in this world, and long for the wisdom of heaven, hidden by our own agenda. Remind us of your presence, God, Riot of Light. We lay down the answers found in this world, and voice the questions of eternity, hidden by our false securities. Remind us of your presence, O Christ, glory transfigured. We lay down the certainties of this world, and revel in the mysteries of the sacred, hidden by our all-knowing minds. Remove the veil that we may see. **Amen.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH 64

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

THE CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS FAITH

THE EPISTLE LESSON

I Corinthians 15:1-11

THE WORLD METHODIST SOCIAL AFFIRMATION

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people, who died in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

We believe; God, help our unbelief.

We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom: in the upholding of human dignity and community; in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation; in each act of self-giving on behalf of others; in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

Glory be to God on high; and on earth, peace.

We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action: through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, gender, nation, or faith; because of greed and indifference; through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life, through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence; through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ: to take up the cross; to seek abundant life for all humanity; to struggle for peace with justice and freedom; to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love, praying that God's kingdom may come.

Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

THE RESPONSE

UMH 75

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

THE CHURCH SHARES OFFERTORY INVITATION and PRAYER

Loose Change Recipient: Upshur Parish House

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 Children are invited to Wiggletime

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR THE WORD

WIGGLETIME *...THEN, CHILDREN'S CHURCH*

+THE WORD

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER *UMH 472*

Near to the Heart of God, v. 2

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God; a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God. O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Responsively*
Almighty, all-merciful God, lover of justice and giver of peace, Hear our prayer. To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For the people of the world, for the church of Jesus Christ, and for all who seek your face. To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For leaders and elders that they will abide by your commandments. To you, O Lord, we pray. **Answer us with mercy.**

For the earth that you have created, trembling for redemption and re-creation. To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

For those who are tormented by illness, addiction, and grief. To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

Let our lives and our world be transfigured by your glory and transformed by your love; To you, O Lord, we pray.

Answer us with mercy.

In the strength and confidence of the children of God, we pray the prayer the Lord taught us:

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 399*

Take My Life, and Let It Be

+BENEDICTION *Pastor*

+POSTLUDE *Dan Martin*

...and the worship continues.

