

Welcome, All Worshipers

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

*"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are entitled to, as we are."
Deitrich Bonhoeffer, "The Cost of Discipleship"*

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand.)  
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Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAT LABADIE, LAY READER

(Please complete the Friendship Book as it is passed during announcements; then pass it toward the center aisle.)

*OPENING HYMN: #351 I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY

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*Call to Worship

Leader: Life can sometimes be very difficult.

All: We look around and wonder where God is.

Leader: In the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

All: God surrounds us with love and courage.

Leader: Come let us praise God for God's abiding presence.

All: Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we don't recognize your loving presence. AMEN

*Opening Prayer

All: O Lord, you bind us together with love, to learn, to be healed, to grow, to serve. Be with us this day and open our hearts to the amazing opportunities to help others through the gifts we possess. In Jesus' glorious name, we pray. AMEN

*The Gloria Patri (sung)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: (UNISON)

ALL: ALMIGHTY GOD, BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, ILLUMINE THE SACRED PAGE. WE PRAY THAT OUR MINDS MAY BE OPEN TO RECEIVE YOUR WORD, OUR HEARTS TAUGHT TO LOVE IT, AND OUR WILLS STRENGTHENED TO OBEY, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN

FIRST READING (LAY READER): ISAIAH 51: 1-6, PSALM 138

SECOND READING (PASTOR): ROMANS 12: 1-8, MATTHEW 16: 13-20

SERMON: YOUR TAKE HOME MID-TERM EXAM

REV. ROSEMARY GIBSON

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS AND DEBTORS)

*HYMN: GOD IS LOVE (INSERT)

THIS SELECTION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

SHARING OF TITHES AND OFFERING (PLEASE BE SEATED)

LEADER: LET US GIVE AS EACH IS ABLE FROM THE FULLNESS OF OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW.
PRAISE GOD, ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW.
PRAISE GOD ABOVE, YE HEAVENLY HOST.
PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (ALL): ALL GOOD GIFTS ARE FROM GOD.
WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GRATITUDE. MAY WE GIVE WITH PASSION FOR JUSTICE, AND WITH GOD'S LOVE GUIDING OUR PATHS. AMEN.

*CLOSING HYMN: #312 WE LOVE YOUR REALM, O GOD

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*BENEDICTION

The world awaits the love and gifts you have to offer. Go forth in joy and peace to be God's witnesses this day and all your days. AMEN

*Unison Response:

And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breadth of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand. Amen

Postlude

