

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

“Cut flowers retain their original beauty and fragrance, but only so long as they retain the vitality that they have drawn from their now-severed roots; after that is exhausted, they wither and die.” ~ *Belief Without Borders* by Linda A. Mercadante

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

CENTERING SONG – LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH (SEE INSERT)

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WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARILYN KETTLER, LAY READER

***OPENING HYMN: #304 – ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME ALL VERSES**

*Call to Worship (Based on Isaiah 43:15-19)

Leader: Family of God, we gather as who we are, and we bring what we have.

All: Let us encounter the new thing God is doing among us.

Leader: We bring joy and sorrow, hope and despair, resources and need, certainty and questions.

All: Let us engage the new thing God is doing among us.

Leader: In this space, we meet the One who parts seas, creates paths, and changes circumstances.

All: Let us encourage the new thing God is doing among us.

*Opening Prayer

Leader: Holy One, we rejoice in your presence. We acknowledge that you have done great things in our history, in our present, and in our future. Our hope rests in you. We rejoice in confidence that you abide in our dry spaces and in our flowing streams.

All: Lead us through troubling times and empower us to continue to press toward you and your way. In our worship, part our lips in praise, open our hearts in love, and quench our spirits in worship. Amen.

***LENTEN SONG OF PRAISE: AS THE DEER (SEE INSERT)**

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SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 43:15-19, JOHN 12:1-8

ANTHEM: HE NEVER SAID A MUMBALIN' WORD (WITH CELLIST, HALLIE JANOWIEC) CHOIR

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN: #531 – GOD, SPEAK TO ME, THAT I MAY SPEAK ALL VERSES**

SERMON: SBNR OR RBNS – THE NEED FOR TRANSPARENCY! REV. ROBERT CASE

Prayer for Transformation and Restoration

Minister: Righteous God, you made us in your divine image and yet we often turn to the gazes of others to see ourselves. We yield to the temptation of comparison and measure ourselves according to standards not made for us. You declared us good, and we question your judgment. We turn from your truth and receive the lies of the enemy of our souls that devalue and condemn even though your grace is sufficient for us. Mend the brokenness within us. Fortify us with your love, hope, and vision. Shield us from stagnation and despair. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

All: The God of grace sees us fully, knows us fully, and loves us fully. May our eyes be ever open to see ourselves as God sees us and restore our souls.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE REFER TO INSERT)

***CLOSING HYMN: #82 – GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING ALL VERSES**

*BENEDICTION

All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. Amen.

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

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Postlude

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: This table of Holy Communion belongs to no individual, church or denomination. It is the table where Christ invites us to come into one body made of many diverse parts yet one in his love.

Pastor: Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help.

People: Come, because you would like to love Jesus more. Come, because Jesus loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his body.

Pastor: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the Highest.

Pastor: Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

The giving and receiving of the bread and cup.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

All: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus the Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us for into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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Let There be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, fam-'ly all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev-'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

As the Deer

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

304

St. 1–3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; alt.

St. 4, John Rippon, 1787; alt.

1. All hail the power of Je-sus' name!
 Let an-gels pros-trate fall;
 Bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem,
 and crown Christ ser-vant of all.
 At-tend the Sav-ior's sov-ereign claim,
 and crown Christ ser-vant of all.

2. A-dorn, O mar-tyred saints of old,
 the cor-o-na-tion hall;
 Ex-tol the wound-ed One fore-told,
 and crown Christ bear-er of all.
 Ex-tol the wound-ed One fore-told,
 and crown Christ bear-er of all.

3. All heirs of Is-rael's chos-en race,
 now ran-somed from the fall,
 Pro-claim the won-ders of God's grace,
 and crown Christ heal-er of all.
 Pro-claim the won-ders of God's grace,
 and crown Christ heal-er of all.

4. Be-fore the cross, with heav-en's throng,
 we on our knees shall fall;
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song,
 and crown Christ sav-ior of all.
 We'll join the ev-er-last-ing song,
 and crown Christ sav-ior of all.

Rev. 19; 5:9; Phil. 2:9–11

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Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.

1. God, speak to me, that I may speak
in liv-ing ech-oes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your err-ing chil-dren lost and lone.

2. O lead me, God, that I may lead
some wan-der-ers a-long life's way;
O feed me so that I may feed
your hun-gry ones with-out de-lay.

3. O fill me with your full-ness, God,
your ov-er-flow-ing love to know;
In glow-ing word and kin-dling thought,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

4. O use me, God, use ev-en me
just as you will, and when, and where,
un-til your bless-ed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glo-ry share.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.

1. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing,
nev-er a-lone;
Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you,
you are my own;
In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er
I have made you mine for-ev-er,
Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing,
you are my own.

2. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished,
clos-er to me;
Grow in love and love by serv-ing,
joy-ful and free.
Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you,
here with ten-der com-fort stilled you;
Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished,
joy-ful and free.

*For marriage services, this stanza may be sung between stanzas 1
and 2 above.*

In this un-ion I have joined you
hus-band and wife,
Now, my chil-dren, live to-geth-er
as heirs of life:
Each the oth-er's glad-ness shar-ing,
each the oth-er's bur-dens bear-ing,
Now, my chil-dren, live to-geth-er
as heirs of life.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:15-19

¹⁵I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. ¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

John 12:1-8

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."