

Welcome, All Worshipers

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

"When you drink the waters of sorrow, you shall kindle the fire of love with the match of perseverance." ~*Mechtild of Magdeburg, Christian Medieval Mystic, and first mystic to write in German.*

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

CENTERING SONG – #692 SPIRIT, OPEN MY HEART ALL VERSES

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS MARILYN KETTLER, LAY READER

*OPENING HYMN: #8 PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD ALL VERSES

*Call to Worship

Leader: The Holy Spirit has given us life and pours on us the power to become new people.

All: The winds of the Spirit have given us breath, and the fire of the Spirit has enkindled in us a love for God and each other.

Leader: Come here in faithfulness and be ready for the surprises that God's Spirit brings.

All: We open our lives to the presence of God and trust God's promise to us that we can live new lives of freedom and grace. May God help us to be true people of Spirit, letting holy surprises fill our days.

*Opening Prayer

All: God of wondrous love, you have touched us and never left us in despair. You have held us in our grief and chaos. You have never deserted us. You have paid us a visit and your visit has never ended. You clung to us when we were given up for dead. In life and in death - you raise us anew! This we know! This we experience! This is your word of assurance! God of wondrous love, touch us again

in this time. Stay with us - as we continue healing our memories and lives. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

*Pentecost Song of Praise #282 - Every Time I Feel the Spirit
(Refrain only - sing twice)

SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 3:23-29

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN #472 Precious Lord, Take My Hand ALL VERSES

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 8:26-39

SERMON: CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS

REV. EUGENE K. BACON

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN: #528 YOU ARE THE SEED 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. Words and music by Michael Joncas. Copyright 1979 OCP. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-739847.

Postlude

Scripture - Galatians 3:23-39

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Gospel - Luke 8:26-39

²⁶Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"— ²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.