

Sunday, February 25, 2024,
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome
Family Life and Work
Family Celebrations
Lighting of the Christ Candle:
Acknowledgment of the Land:

Introit: Way-Maker

(originally by Sinach)

CHORUS:

**You are here, moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, working in this place
I worship You, I worship You. (REPEAT)**

VERSE:

You are...

**Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper
Light in the darkness, my God
That is who You are. (REPEAT)**

CHORUS:

**You are here, touching every heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, healing every heart
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, turning lives around
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, mending every heart
I worship You, I worship You.**

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 22)

Come, you who honour the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary!

God does not despise those who suffer. God is not far from those who mourn.

All creation will feast on God's grace; they will eat and be satisfied.

Generations yet unborn will serve God. They will know the Lord and be glad.

The Lord awaits us in this place.

The Lord is the everlasting God. We worship Him.

Opening Hymn: Into the Unshaped Silence

VU 305

**1 Into the unshaped silence sings
the sound of God's own voice.
The darkness bows to light newborn,
the moon and stars rejoice.**

- 2** Each day unfolds with wonders new,
first grass, first tree, first bird!
Plain, peak, and vale all take their place,
each shaped by God's own word.
- 3** The Word sings out with power once more,
into the newmade earth;
and in their Maker's image formed,
woman and man know birth.
- 4** A day of rest, and o'er the earth
God's voice again is heard:
a song of joy that celebrates
the goodness of the world.
- 5** God calls us all to join and sing
the wonder of the earth
and through our careful stewardship
to guard creation's worth.

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people. In this time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord may put aside the deeds of death and accept the life of your kingdom. Now hear us as we say together the words that Jesus taught,

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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

First Reading: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Children's Time: "Lost and Found"

Second Reading: Mark 8: 31-38

We Listen

Gradual Hymn: Amazing Grace

VU 266 vs 1,2,3,5

- 1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That calls me to be free!
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.**
- 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**
- 3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
We have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**
- 5. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.**

Sermon: "Not Exactly As Illustrated"

We Respond

Musical Offering: Behold The Shepherd

Natalie Sleeth

Offertory Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VU 541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

**1 All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine,
didst yield the glory that of right was thine,
that in our troubled hearts thy grace might shine:
hallelujah; hallelujah!**

**2 Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought;
by thee the outcast and the poor were sought,
and by thy death was God's salvation wrought:
hallelujah; hallelujah!**

**4 Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, thou
art high exalted o'er all creatures now,
and given the name to which all knees shall bow:
hallelujah; hallelujah!**

Benedictions and Commissioning

Choral Benediction: Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen**