

Sunday, April 28, 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: This Day God Gives Me

VU 410 vs 1

**This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
depths of the ocean, firmness of earth.**

Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 22)

We gather to praise God, the source and end of life.

From east to west, north to south, we raise our voices in praise!

God's power and grace are seen throughout the whole earth.

Every generation proclaims to the next generation the glory of God!

Opening Hymn: God Is Here

VU 389 vs 1,2,3

- 1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**

- 2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

- 3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,**

**Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.**

Prayer of Approach: **(unison)**

**Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever.
Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,
and our faith as true. Amen.**

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: 1 John 4: 7 – 21

Children's Time: "Routes"

Second reading: John 15: 1 – 8

We Listen

Gradual Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story

VU 343

**1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

**2 I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. R**

**3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. R**

Meditation: "Branch Plants"

Musical Offering: Healing River

We Respond

Offertory: For the Gift of Creation

VU 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of the People:

Closing Hymn: How Great Thou Art

VU 238 vs 1,2,4

**1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;**

**when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. R**

**4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!' R**

Benedictions and Commissioning:

Go into your daily living carrying the fruit of the Spirit within. Feed others with the fruit of faith that they, too, might know life in its fullness. **Amen.**

Choral Benediction: May the Road Rise to Meet You

(A Gaelic Blessing)

Music - Derek Jordan

**May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rain fall soft upon your fields (on your fields).
Until we meet again,
May the Lord hold you in the palm (of his hand) of his hand**