



November 9, 2025 – 10am

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

"Children of the Heavenly Father" arr. Linker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**—Liturgist

Please stand as you are able, and join me in the call to worship.

Leader: In life and in death, we belong to God

People: God is the world that births us

Leader: God is the love we practice

People: God is the community we make

Leader: God is the creative force that transitions us through life to death to life again.

People: Come, Spirit of New Life!

Leader: Draw us ever nearer to the Kingdom -
that Holy Place where love is made eternal

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:

here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CALL TO CONFESSION –Liturgist

Please be seated.

Though we are prone to wander, the spirit of God abides among us. Trusting in God's persistent love and mercy, let us confess our sin. Please join me in the prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION –Liturgist

Cross

Gracious God, we confess that we are too easily influenced by peddlers of despair and alarm, too quick to sink into numbness and apathy, too tired to imagine another way. Our hopes have crumbled, and our hearts are faint.

Breathe new life into us, we pray. Help us to be mindful of your promises, your faithfulness, and your presence as we face the challenges of our lives. Restore our vision and give us courage to live in your truth. Amen.

(Silence for personal confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God's ways are just, and God's kindness is constant. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Beloved, God draws near to us with compassion and forgives our sins.
Thanks be to God, we are a forgiven people. Amen.

HYMN 582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Ribbon

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN #188

"Jesus Loves Me"

TALK WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION –Liturgist

Before we hear the scriptures read, let us pray that God's Spirit might open our hearts to receive a divine word.

Redeeming God, through the power of your Holy Spirit,
connect us to eternity through our hearing of your Word,
that we might know your living presence
and seek to do your will;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE FIRST READING Liturgist Job 19: 23-27 (NRSVUE) Notepad

23 "O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
24 O that with an iron pen and with lead

they were engraved on a rock forever!
25 For I know that my vindicator lives
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;
26 and after my skin has been destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
27 whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

These words are trustworthy and true. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 20:27-38 (NRSVUE)

Notepad

27 Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him 28 and asked him a question: "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. 29 Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; 30 then the second 31 and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. 32 Finally the woman also died. 33 In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

34 Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, 35 but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. 36 Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. 37 And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. 38 Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

Living God,
burning wild and unconfined,

you call us to a new being,
free from the fear of death:
take away the limits
that bind our imagination
and choke our compassion
that we may feel your pleasure
in all that brings life;
through Jesus Christ, risen and ascended. Amen.

SERMON

Jubilee Stories—Life Before and After Death

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Cross

Our Father who art in heaven... (Hymnal p. 35. We say "debts & debtors.")

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING –Liturgist

Let us be faithful with what we have: Material resources. Spiritual resources. Capacities and skills. We have so much to share in so many ways. There are a million ways to pray with our lives that God's Kingdom may draw ever nearer. Let us bring our offerings together.

You can give in person or online using the QR code printed in the bulletin or on the screen.

OFFERTORY

"How Can I Keep from Singing" Arranged by Gwyneth Walker

*DOXOLOGY #606

Ribbon

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication—Liturgist

Cross

Cosmic Creator - you so shaped the ecosystems of life that we would all have capacities, all have roles, all have ways of offering and receiving the gifts and graces of this planet. With the time and materials entrusted to us, we pray that you would make us bold and brave in our purpose together. That we may deepen our care for each other and trust in the web of interdependence. That no one may be left to struggle alone.

Receive our offerings and make it so. Amen.

***HYMN**

"You Belong"

Ribbon

1 In our light, in our darkness,
In our hopes, in our fears,
You have purpose here.
In our highs, in our lows
In our joys, in our sorrows,
In our rights, in our wrongs,
When we're weak and when we're strong,
In our story, in our song, you belong.

Refrain:

You belong just as you are,
Here in this place.
You are the image of God.
You belong, come raise your voice,
Come hear the word,
Listen to God, and know that you belong.

2 In your prayer, in your silence,
In your grief, in your tears,
God will hold you near.
In your strength, in your weakness,
In your storm, in your peace,
When you give all you can,
When you question where you stand,

When you hate what you see,
Growing pains have made you weak,
You are still given grace, you are justified by faith.
You still have a gift and song, you belong. *Refrain*

3 We on earth have no sorrow
That God cannot feel;
God will help us heal.
We are called in this place,
In our hearts, and in our faith;
To tell the story and the song; we belong.
Tell the story, sing the song; we belong.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Reprise of "You Belong"

† From *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare. New York: Church Publishing, 2009.

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