November 12, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Instrumental

WELCOME

*WORDS OF BLESSING

*HYMN #280

"Amazing Grace"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of the open road, God of the twisting path, God of the narrow and upward way, your people are gathered for worship!

People: In this hour, give us provision for the journey, courage, faith, compassion, and endurance to face any hardship.

Leader: Open our eyes to see you walking beside us, protecting us, encouraging us, loving us.

People: We offer these words in the name of Jesus, who calls us, shapes us and moves us, today and all days. Amen

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves.[...time for silent, personal confession...] Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with you and one another. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

MUSIC "God of Wonders"

Praise Band

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON "Celebration"

Scripture: Nehemiah 12:27-31,36b-40,43-47

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Creator God, from the beginning of time, you have revealed yourself as the One who brings order out of chaos. You take what is broken and make it into something new and beautiful. Build and restore us, O Lord. Take the broken-down places of our lives and our world and build them up, not so that we can hide behind walls of protection, but that from places of peace and safety, we can testify to your amazing grace and love that makes all things new. Amen.

RESPONDING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

MUSIC "The Garden"

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

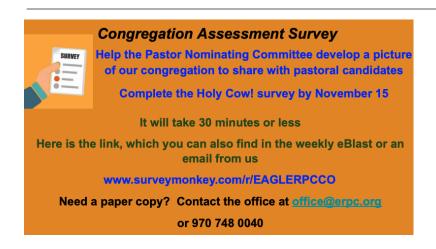
*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE Instrumental

Some of our worship material is adapted from:

- Carol Penner at leadinginworship.com
- The Worship Sourcebook, @2004 Faith Alive Christian Resources
- Offerings of Praise, by the Rev. Quentin Chin on the United Church of Christ website

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Budgeted Giving for 2023 - \$503,000 Total received \$320,000 64% as of 10/31/2023.