

April 30, 2023

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*PRELUDE Instrumental Megan McGee-Bonta

WELCOME

*WORDS OF BLESSING FOR EACH OTHER

HYMN #303 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let's turn our attention to the Lord our God, for God is ready to receive our worship right now.

People: We come from different backgrounds and circumstances. We celebrate that here in this place there are no foreigners, no outsiders, for all people are welcome in God's house.

Leader: Here in this worship, there is acceptance, for love is the language of faith.

People: In our lives, in this fellowship, there is no room for division, for God lives in each of us as we live by faith.

Leader: Knowing this, come, let's worship God who is with us in unity and love.

People: We're ready! Let's worship God

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, in the days in the history of your people known as the period of the judges, their circumstances were chaotic. In the chaos you kept wanting your children to turn to you, rely on you and live in your ways. Your word was rarely heard and visions were scarce. People did what was right in their own eyes. Sometimes that describes our world and us. We confess that often so many voices clamor for our attention and that your word is again hard to hear. Forgive us when we are not good witnesses and fail to use our gifts to serve you. We don't always listen or respond as you wish. We confess that we do not expect to meet you on the roads

we travel and so we fail to discern your presence or your call on our lives. Hear us as we confess our private sins to you. [. . . silent prayers . . .] Holy Spirit, you empower us to recognize and to respond to the invitation of Jesus to follow him, even when that means traveling on unknown and unfamiliar paths. Merciful God, take from us all that hinders our hearing your voice and fill us anew with the Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully respond to Jesus' call on our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

MUSIC "I Love to Tell the Story"

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON "Resolute No Matter What: Bitterness Takes Hold"
Scripture: Ruth 1:6-22

RESPONDING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

To share a joy or concern: Click [HERE](#) or use the QR code

OFFERING

To give online: Click [HERE](#), or use the QR code

MUSIC "Lead On, O King Eternal" Sanctuary Choir

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE Instrumental

Some of our worship material is adapted from:

- *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*, © 2011 Abingdon Press on <http://www.ministrymatters.com>
- Moira Laidlaw, and posted on her Liturgies Online
- Richard Einerson on http://www.richardeinerson.com/einerson_004.htm

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