

## Organ Prelude

## Praise Song

## Welcome

## The People Gather

L: Great is the Lord!

**P: God's greatness is beyond our understanding.**

L: Yet God has revealed God's self in Jesus Christ.

**P: Through Jesus we have come to know the absolute love of God.**

L: Lift up your hearts and praise the Lord!

**P: May God continue to bless God's people with peace. AMEN.**

## Hymn

## The People Pray

**God of majesty and power, how awesome you are to us! The mountains tremble, the seas roar at the sound of your name! Yet you have chosen to come to us in love and tenderness. You have called us to be people who will act in ways of peace and justice in your world. Open our hearts and our spirits, Lord, to hear your word, and having heard, to act in ministries of hope and peace for all your earth. These things we pray in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

## Special Music

## The People Confess Their Sin

**We come to you this morning in humbleness. We want you to give us peace and hope in our hearts. We want to know that everything will be all right; that the world will cease to be a place that inspires fear. We want to be born again in a spirit of hope. But when we come it is for our own sake, and not to learn what you would have us be and do in this world. Forgive our selfishness, Lord. Calm our fears and heal our spirits. Let us truly listen to you so that we may be witnesses to your peace and justice which you seek for the world. Saturate us with your light and wisdom. Empower us to be those who bring peace, which is not only an absence of war, but peace which promotes an attitude of love. Clear away the clutter in our lives and place us on paths of service to you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

## God's Words of Assurance

God's love of the world is so great that God sent Jesus that we may truly live lives of peace and hope. Listen with your hearts as well as your ears. God's love is poured out for you that you may have new life in service and witness. Praise be to God.

## The Word of God for the People of God

## Scripture 1 Thessalonians 1:1-7

Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

<sup>2</sup>We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.<sup>3</sup>We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters<sup>[b]</sup> loved by God, that he has chosen you,<sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.<sup>7</sup>And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

## Message Faithfulness in Opposition

## The People Go into The World

## Praise Song

## Benediction

## Organ Postlude