

## ~Gathering the Family of God~

## The Peal of Our Church Bell

## Welcome

Prelude *Come unto Me, Ye Weary* Victor Holder

Choral Call to Worship *Good News* arr. by Henry Smith

## Call to Worship

One: Have you heard? Something new is coming, a different world than the one we know. And we're the ones to help make it happen! Let us gather together, to support and encourage one another and to praise God—for new visions, for hope, for new beginnings, and for new possibilities.

Come people of God; come and celebrate God's gift of salvation.

**All: We come without fear. We come trusting in God.**

One: Come people of God; hear God's promises and witness God's mighty deeds.

**All: In hearing the promises, in witnessing the mighty deeds of God, we are strengthened for all that lies ahead.**

One: Come, let us worship and praise God and sing for joy, for God truly is in our midst.

## Opening Prayer (unison)

**Our loving and caring God, we need this time together to be united with our sisters and brothers in the faith; we need this time of worship to be comforted and strengthened in your presence. We hear of wars and rumors of wars. We read of persecution and oppression. Remind us again of your vision, that all might live in a world of peace and justice and love. May this time together imprint this vision and promise on our hearts, that we may live into this beloved community. Amen.**

\* Gathering Song *Great is thy Faithfulness* #39

## \* Prayer of Confession

*Let us remain standing and express ourselves to God.*

**O God, we are more like the vision in Luke than the vision of Isaiah. We see wars, hatred, and violence everywhere, yet despair of ever stopping them. We see oppression and injustice and persecution, but fail to raise our voices in protest. We have become a pessimistic people.**

**Help us believe—really believe—in Isaiah's vision of the peaceable kingdom, in your promise of a new heaven and new earth. Let your cry be our cry, "They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain." Amen.**

\*A Time for Contemplation (a private time for you and God)

## \*Words of Assurance

One: God is our strength and our salvation. God's anger is turned away, and in its place we find comfort, steadfast love, and forgiveness.

**All: With this hope, we can draw water from the wells of salvation with joy and thanksgiving. We are part of the new heaven and new earth. In God's love we can reach across the differences that divide us.**

\*Gloria Patri # 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.**

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain.

## ~Hearing God's Word~

## God's Word for Little Ears

## Prayer for Understanding God's Word

**All: Gracious God, guide us into your service. Lead us to paths of humility and compassion. Help us remember that true greatness is nothing less than love and nothing more than servanthood. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 65:17-25: 12 Page 696

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 12 Page 641

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *Down to the River to Pray from "Oh Brother Where Art Thou?"*  
arr. by Sheldon Curry GUEST SOLOIST: Deana Mason

New Testament Epistle 2Thessalonians 3:6-13 Page 207

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson Luke 21:5-19 Page 85

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Message They Shall Not Labor in Vain Rev. Terry Epling

## ~Responding to God's Word~

## \*Affirmation of Faith

*Let us stand and affirm our faith.*

**All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.** [The Apostles Creed]

