



February 4th, 2024

Gathering

During the Prelude we invite you to greet one another with love outside the Chapel, and allow those within to meditate, pray or just listen.

Prelude Variations on "Kum Ba Yah"

arr. by John A Behnke

1. Someone's Praying, Lord,

2. Someone's Crying, Lord

Welcome

*Call to Worship

*congregation please stand in body or spirit

Leader:

God's Spirit dwells in us,

People:

for we are God's temple.

Leader:

We belong to Christ,

People:

and Christ belongs to God.

Let us worship and praise the Lord!

*Opening Hymn #401 "Here In This Place"

Poem

"In no strange land"

by Francis Thompson (1859-1907)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior, we want to live as kingdom citizens, but we confess that we often lose sight of your presence and grace in our world. We are discouraged by the slow pace of change when we want justice and compassion to rule *now*. We are disheartened by the suffering we see that we can't explain. We despair at the war, violence, and poverty that enslave so many. Grant us, Lord, the wisdom to discern your hand at work and the conviction to be part of the change that is needed. Forgive our complacency and all the subtle ways we distance ourselves from the needs of our messy world.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Of this we can we sure: God is faithful and just and forgives our

sin. Friends, hear the Good News and believe:

People: In Jesus Christ, the kingdom is come and we are forgiven!

Amen.

*Musical Response #175 "Seek Ye First" vs. 1

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy, **People:** Hear our prayers

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures: Matthew 18:1-5 and John 3:1-8

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "How Do We Enter the Kingdom of God?"

*Hymn #377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" verses 1, 2

Time for Response to Sermon

Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you. **People: And also with you.** Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God most high.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music #695 "Change My Heart, O God"

Prayer After Communion

Announcements

Sending

*Closing Hymn #547 "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

*Benediction

Postlude

Variations on "Kum Ba Yah"

arr. by John A Behnke

3. Someone's Singing, Lord

Feel free to stand, chat and generally share in Fellowship as the Postlude sends us out into the world in Love.

We welcome all who worship with us this day. May you experience God's presence and find inspiration for your journey of faith. This morning the leaders in worship are:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Pastor; Heidi Thomas, Music Director; Dale Vodehnal, Liturgist; Ryan Hodel, Zoom Host

All music today is used by CCLI-1800777/One License #A-725921