



April 14th, 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 “We've a Story to Tell to the Nations” arr. by Lloyd Larson

Welcome

*Call to Worship

*Congregation please stand in body or spirit

Leader: Jesus Christ summons us to answer the call of God's kingdom.

People: Christ gathers us and gives us power to be healed and to heal,

Leader: to be forgiven and to forgive,

People: to be freed from sin and to set others free,

Leader: to tell one another and the world:

**People: God's presence is near, God's kingdom is at hand.
Let us worship!**

*Opening Hymn “We've a Story to Tell to the Nations” *(see insert)*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear that hinders the realization of your kingdom among us. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our attitudes, actions, and words that do not honor you and reflect the kingdom life you have called us to live. Give us true repentance that leads to peace and reconciliation for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Do not be afraid. The One who was and is and is to come knows you through and through and has overcome even death to forgive you, that you might be delivered into joy that knows no end.

**People: Trusting in the reconciling, redeeming love of God, we give thanks for Christ's mercy.
Hallelujah! Amen.**

*Musical Response #2026 "Halle, Halle, Halleluja!" *sing twice* (STF)

*Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures: Matthew 9:35-38 and Luke 9:1-2

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Life in God's Kingdom: It Starts *Now*"

*Hymn #773 "Heaven Shall Not Wait"

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Sending

*Closing Hymn #2190 “Bring Forth the Kingdom” (STF)

*Benediction

Postlude “Bring Forth the Kingdom”

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;
Diane Ritzdorf, Liturgist

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

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