



August 20th, 2023

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 “Morning Hymn” by James Pethel

Welcome

*Call to Worship

*congregation please stand in body or spirit

Leader: The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.

People: Give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: God has done miraculous deeds and is always faithful to God’s covenant.

People: Give thanks to the Lord. Glory and praise and honor belong to God!

*Opening Hymn #320 “The Lone, Wild Bird”

Poem “The Departure” Fr. Timothy J. Draper

Call to Confession

Knowing that we are lost but longing to be found, let us bring to God our confession of what causes us to lose our way. Let us pray....

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you love me with an outrageous, prodigious love, and you generously give me all that you have. Yet I fail to appreciate you or to respond in gratitude to your love. Like the younger brother, I stubbornly choose my own selfish ways rather than receive your wise counsel. I pursue the pleasures of this world, believing that they will make me happy, only to discover that they result in poverty of both soul and spirit. Like the elder brother, I hold myself aloof and apart, judging others and withholding compassion and mercy. Neither of these brothers understood that their truest treasure lay in their relationship with You— and that is my sin as well. Forgive me, Lord, and restore me in your forgiveness and grace for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Yet while we are still far off, our Loving God sees us and is filled with compassion. God runs toward us with arms outstretched, giving us the kiss of welcome and grace. Friends, believe the good news:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen.

*Music Response #774 (GTG) “There Is Now a New Creation” vs. 2

*Call the lost and found together; tell the news to everyone:
now the past is gone forever and a new life has begun.*

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: Luke 15:11-32

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Redefining Lostness”

*Hymn #363 ”I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

Time for Response to the Sermon

Joys and Concerns

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayers

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Call for Offering

Musical Offering “Reflections”

by David Combs

Announcements

Sending

*Closing Hymn #361 “How Firm a Foundation” vs 1,2,5

*Benediction

Postlude “How Firm a Foundation” arr. by Mark Hayes

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**, Interim Music Director;
, Liturgist; **Ryan Hodel**, Zoom Host

Offering - *We collect the offering in the following ways:*

- 1. Leave your offerings and pledges in the offering plate at the entrance of the chapel;*
- 2. Make a one-time donation online through our website: calvarypresdenver.org;*
- 3. Set up a regular donation online through the website. Your financial generosity and gifts of time help make our ministry in the community vibrant!*