



**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 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                    “Dream Of The Forgotten Child”                    by David Lanz

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

\*congregation please stand in body or spirit

Leader:            We have been called to the Lord’s banquet.

**People:            God is throwing a feast!**

Leader:            We have been invited to God’s lavish celebration of grace.

**People:            This is a feast of mercy, love, and generosity.**

Leader:            Younger and elder siblings, Pharisee and sinner, God welcomes us all.

**People:            Let us join God’s eternal celebration!  
Come, let us worship our Prodigal God!**

\*Opening Hymn #2221    “In Unity We Lift Our Song” vs. 1, 2, 4

Poem                    “After the Party”                    by Charumathi Rao

He threw a party for me, to welcome me back!  
After I’d gone and lost all his wealth,  
I’d broken his heart, shamed his fame,  
Yet here he is, calling my name.  
I am worn and weary, dirty and weak,  
Was hoping to quietly fall at his feet;  
Pleading my faults in submission meek,  
Yet I saw him, come running to greet.  
My brother is angry and so are his friends,  
The servants - they wonder if Dad’s lost his head!  
A party? – they said, for this one? who strayed?  
A party He said – for I’d prayed and prayed.  
After the party, I’ve shed many tears,  
Counting the losses and the wasted years,  
I battle the guilt, the fear and the shame,  
Yet, once again, I hear him calling my name.

After the party, when others didn't believe,  
And when I was too afraid, to step out and live;  
I see his eyes, and remember how it felt  
To be back in his arms, safe and alive...!  
As the years, have gone by, I no longer mope,  
I've slowly, but surely, come to know well  
That my father has a plan – a future and a hope!  
As I securely, in his care and presence dwell.  
I know above all, that I am my father's child,  
And that 'He', my lot and my portion provides.  
Though trials may come, and temptations wild,  
I'll rest in peace, as his love, forever abides...!

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**Creator of the universe, we imagine that we are in familiar territory, that we know what to expect in this place and in this hour, that we will leave much the way that we came. Merciful God, do not abandon us to our foolishness. Illumine our self-imposed blindness. In love, bear us home—until we recognize your presence whenever evil is confronted, truth is spoken, life is restored, and we bear the resemblance of your grace to the world.**

### Time for Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

**Leader:** In Christ we see the depths of God's prodigious love and mercy poured out to redeem us.

**People:** **Make us glad, Jesus our True Brother, that we might share this good news with all:**

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.**

\*Music Response #774 (GTG) "There Is Now a New Creation" vs. 1

*There is now a new creation through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
Peace and reconciliation with the God of endless life.*

### Passing of the Peace of Christ

**Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.** 3

## The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures: Luke 15:11-32 (Good News Translation)

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “What It Means to Be Family”

\*Hymn #2220 “We are God's People” vs. 1-3

Time for Response to the Sermon

Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayers**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

## Sending

\*Closing Hymn #2223 “They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

\*Benediction

Postlude

*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; **Kent Lemburg**, Guest Musician;

**Cathy Jaynes**; 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](http://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!*