

The Church at Worship

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*

Congregational responses and unison readings are indicated in bold.

The Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of new beginnings, as we turn the calendar page to a fresh, new year, we long to erase and leave behind the brokenness of the year behind us. We forget that our time is not your time. We are grateful that you are just as present with us today as you were last week, and that you will be present with us in the coming weeks when we are ready for yet another fresh start. Be with all of us this morning as we begin anew, our efforts to live in your likeness and for your glory! Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: *God spoke the creative Word into the formless void.*

All: The cosmos cries, "Glory!"

One: *From the wilderness, God brought forth new life and liberation.*

All: The plants and animals that inhabit the wild places cry, "Glory!"

One: *A messenger in the wilderness brings good news.*

All: God's people cry, "Glory!"

One: *In baptism, we are united to God through Jesus Christ.*

All: With all of creation, we cry "Glory!"

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Morning Has Broken* # 274

CALL TO CONFESSION

The One, who was without sin, received the baptism of repentance so that we who have sinned may be covered by his righteousness. The Spirit enables us to tell the truth of our brokenness, assured already of the grace we know in Jesus Christ. Let us confess together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creating God, we cannot look at our lives, our communities, or the world around us without seeing the fractures and brokenness that reflect the reality of sin.

You created the earth and called it good, but it now groans, awaiting redemption and re-creation under the weight of our greed, abuse and carelessness.

You created humanity in your image, and called us very good, but we have ignored the image of God in each other. You poured out your love in Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live and how to love, but we continue to make our own path, follow our own desires, and neglect to love others as Christ loves us. Lord, have mercy. Re-create us now. Amen.

(Moment for silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: *The heavens part, the waters swirl and the dove descends, reminding us that we, too, are God's beloved children. We are covered by God's grace and forgiven in Jesus Christ. Amen*

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Response to Forgiveness

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: *The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all.*

All: And also with you.

(Please turn to those around you and extend the hand of peace and friendship)

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Sweet, Sweet, Spirit* # 153

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

SERMON *"On the Wings of a Dove"*
RE Louan Pyron

The Response

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

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 Eucharist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY:

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all people here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father; Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The Sending

*CLOSING HYMN *Spirit of the Living God* # 150

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *God Be With You* #583

POSTLUDE

