

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

Almighty God, who pours out the spirit of grace to all who ask for it; deliver us, when we draw near to you, when we need you the most, when we don't even realize it, so that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections, we may turn to you and worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 19:7-10)*

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

Leader: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

Leader: The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

People: They are more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey. Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Praise to the Lord the Almighty* # 10

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ calls us to live lives in harmony with our God and our neighbors. Even our best efforts fall short. Yet our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Trusting that abundant mercy, let us confess our sin together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of righteousness, we confess that have not kept your commandments. We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to

other powers and principalities. We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. We look the other way in the face of violence and oppression, misogyny and sexual assault, land grabs and unjust economic practices. Our dishonesty and greed get the better of us. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live in justice and joy. Purify us by your righteousness and enfold us in your grace. Sanctify our intentions and actions, that our lives may begin to reflect your Beloved Community. Amen.

(Moment for silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear these words from the Apostle Paul, "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." The grace of Christ is sufficient for us.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

The Response to Forgiveness

**Gloria Patri* #620

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 *Wherever He Leads Me I Will Go* # 543

The Word

SCRIPTURE John 3:1-17

SERMON "An Invitation to Discovery"
The Rev. Ron Jones

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*

623

***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 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* #462

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *God Be With You* #583

POSTLUDE

