



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP and HYMN (see insert or screen)

PRAYER OF PRAISE—Psalm 121, paraphrase

*We lift our eyes to the hills—
from where will our help come?
Our help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
God, who keeps us, will not slumber;
the One who keeps us will neither
slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is our keeper;
our shade during the heat of the day
and our shelter by night.
The Lord will keep our going out
and our coming in,
from this time on and
forevermore.*

RESPONSE #45 *I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

—based on the beatitudes of Matthew 5

God blesses those who realize their need for him,
for the kingdom of heaven is given to them.

**But we have been proud in spirit,
inflated with our own self-sufficiency.
We have forgotten how much in need we are.**

God blesses those who are gentle and humble,
for the whole earth will be their inheritance.

**But we have valued toughness over gentleness,
and our willfulness wounds rather than heals.**

God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

**But we have often presided as judges over others.
We have been quick to place blame on others,
rather than humbly reflect on our need for mercy.**

God blesses those who work for peace and harmony,
for they will be called the children of God.

**But we are often at war with one another and
in a hundred little ways we want to be catered to.
We often create strife by demanding our way
rather than by walking in the unity of God’s Spirit.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

—from Romans 5:6,8 and Romans 8:37-39

*At the right time, while we were helpless,
Christ sought after us...
God proves his love for us in this:
while we were still sinners Christ died for us.*

***In all things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For we are assured that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Thanks be to God!***

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every
Blessing*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matt.5:1-10 and Matt.9:35-38

MESSAGE The Bible Doesn’t Say That:
“God Helps Those Who Help Themselves”

HYMN #509 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.

HYMN #836 *Abide with Me*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE