



PRELUDE *Lift Every Voice and Sing*
- David Little, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

“The heavens are telling the glory of the Lord;
and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.”
(Psalm 19:1)

**All around us are signs and wonders,
fingerprints of the creator.
Praise be to God!**

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it;
the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalm 24:1)

**All around us we find life;
all the created world is related to us.
Praise be to God!**

Come, let us dwell in God’s work of art!
Here in this wondrous world, we are not alone.
We share this life with the heavens and the earth...

**with the waters and the land,
with trees and grasses,
with fish, birds, and animals,
and creatures of every form,
and with all our brothers and sisters.
Praise be to God!**

God is good and everything God makes is good.

Praise to the Creator of all that is!

HYMN #20 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**With you, gracious God,
we move into this time of worship,
grateful that you are never farther
than the reach of our need and our prayer.
You who tower over the universe
are yet intimately present,
always renewing the face of the earth,
always renewing the faith of your children.
Now, in your goodness, make your way past
all that worries and distracts us
to speak to us anew and to center
our simple worship on your great glory. Amen.**

RESPONSE #710 *We Are an Offering*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**You have given us a world of beauty,
and we have spoiled it.
A world to feed us,
and so many go hungry.
A world of riches,
and we are reluctant to share.
Enable us to see this world anew
as a gift from you,
to be shared and nurtured,
and those who live upon it
to be loved and cared for.
We ask this that your name
may be glorified,
through the beauty of this world,
and the service of our lives.**

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—based on Romans 8:1-4,
The Message

There is now no condemnation
for those of us who belong to Jesus Christ!
We no longer have to live
under the threat of God’s judgment.
For through Jesus, we have been freed
from the tyranny of sin and death.
For Jesus did what the law could never do.
He personally took on the human condition,
entering into the disordered mess of struggling
humanity
in order to set it right once and for all.
Through him we have been set free!

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalms 75:1-7
Esther 1:1-12, 19-22

MESSAGE Courage and Hope (Esther)

HYMN #697 *Take My Life and Let it Be Consecrated*

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 #307 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

