

The music in the service is found in the books in the pew racks. Songs with “(H)” are found in *The Presbyterian Hymnal* and with “(S)” in *Sing the Faith*.

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MUSICAL GREETING 2024 (S)** “From the Rising of the Sun”

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: Friends, the Church of Jesus Christ is the provisional demonstration of what God intends for all of humanity.

**All: We are caretakers of God's world.**

**We are a community made in God's image. We are messengers of God's faithfulness.**

One: The Church of Jesus Christ is the provisional demonstration of what God intends for all of humanity.

**All: We are broken people restored by grace of Jesus Christ.**

**We are the lost who have been found by faith.**

**We are the visible sign of God's new life of love.**

One: The Church of Jesus Christ is the provisional demonstration of what God intends for all of humanity.

**All: We are temples of the Holy Spirit.**

**We are prophets of Christ's Lordship. We are agents of God's will.**

One: Let us worship God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who calls us to live God's way of life.

**\*HYMN 430 (H)** “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy”

### THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST (*Book of Order G-3.0200a-c*)

The Church is called to be a sign in and for the world of the new reality which God has made available to people in Jesus Christ. The new reality revealed in Jesus Christ is the new humanity, a new creation, a new beginning for human life in the world: (1) Sin is forgiven. (2) Reconciliation is accomplished. (3) The dividing walls of hostility are torn down. The Church is the body of Christ, both in its corporate life and in the lives of its individual members, and is called to give shape and substance to this truth.

### LITANY OF CONFESSION (*Called to Openness, Book of Order G-3.0401*)

One: The Church is called to a new openness to the presence of God in the Church and in the world, to more fundamental obedience, and to a more joyous celebration in worship and work.

**All: Forgive us, God, when we ignore or exclude you from our church and do not see you in the world around us.**

**Forgive us when we follow our ways, not your way.  
Forgive us when our worship does not celebrate you  
and our work is disconnected from our worship.**

One: The Church is called to a new openness to its own membership,  
by affirming itself as a community of diversity, becoming in fact as well as in faith,  
a community of women and men of all ages, races, and conditions,  
and by providing for inclusiveness as a visible sign of the new humanity.

**All: Forgive us, God, when we do not reflect in our life together  
the diversity of the world in which we live.  
Forgive us when choose to be right rather than in relationship with others.  
Forgive us when we expect others to join us, but we do not go out to welcome them.**

One: The Church is called to a new openness to the possibilities and perils  
of its institutional forms in order to ensure the faithfulness and usefulness  
of these forms to God's activity in the world.

**All: Forgive us, God, when we hold on to the old and the comfortable  
rather than letting your vision and mission open us up  
to new ways of being and doing church.  
Forgive us when we become more interested in saving our church and its history  
than in being faithful to your future and useful for your work in the world.**

One: The Church is called to a new openness to God's continuing reformation  
of the Church ecumenical, that it might be a more effective instrument  
of mission in the world.

**All: Forgive us, God, when we resist your reformation in us.  
Forgive us when we do not see ourselves as an instrument  
of your mission in the world.  
Continue to re-form us into your image  
that we may always live your good news together and share your new life.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF GRACE (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

One: If we are in Christ, we are new creations.

**All: The old life is gone. The new life has begun.**

One: What then is God's mission for us?

**All: That we may receive God's grace, hope and love in Jesus Christ,  
and then give those gifts away. Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE TO GRACE 298 (H) "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"**

#### **HEARS GOD'S WORD**

#### **THE CHURCH'S CALLING (Book of Order G-3.0300a)**

The Church is called to tell the good news of salvation by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ as the only Savior and Lord, proclaiming in Word and Sacrament that (1) the new age has dawned. (2) God who creates life, frees those in bondage, forgives sin, reconciles brokenness, makes all things new, is still at work in the world. The Church is called to present the claims of

Jesus Christ, leading persons to repentance, acceptance of him as Savior and Lord, and new life as his disciples.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**      Isaiah 65:17-19, 23-25

**TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**      Luke 13:6-9

**SERMON**      *What Should We Do About the Church?*

Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews

**RESPONDS IN LOVE AND SERVICE**

**\*HYMN 442 (H)**      “The Church’s One Foundation”

**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

We pray for those we name together, those on the prayer list, and the ministries of our church.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (“forgive us our sins”)

**CHRIST’S FAITHFUL EVANGELIST** (*Book of Order G-3.0300c*)

The Church is called to be Christ’s faithful evangelist

- (1) going into the world, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all he has commanded;
- (2) demonstrating by the love of its members for one another and by the quality of its common life the new reality in Christ; sharing in worship, fellowship, and nurture, practicing a deepened life of prayer and service under the guidance of the Holy Spirit;
- (3) participating in God’s activity in the world through its life for others by
  - (a) healing and reconciling and binding up wounds,
  - (b) ministering to the needs of the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the powerless,
  - (c) engaging in the struggle to free people from sin, fear, oppression, hunger, and injustice,
  - (d) giving itself and its substance to the service of those who suffer,
  - (e) sharing with Christ in the establishing of his just, peaceable, and loving rule in the world.

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

**\*RESPONSE 428 (H)**      “We Give Thee But Thine Own” (vs. 1 & 4)

**\*PRAYER TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES**

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

We greet each other with a hand-shake or embrace and say: “**The peace of Christ be with you!**” We respond to that greeting by saying: “**And also with you!**”

**\*HYMN 332 (H)**      “Live into Hope”

**\*CALLED TO RISK AND TRUST** (*Book of Order G-3.0400*)

The Church is called to undertake this mission even at the risk of losing its life, trusting in God alone as the author and giver of life, sharing the gospel, and doing those deeds in the world that point beyond themselves to the new reality in Christ.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*MUSICAL BENEDICTION 441 (H)** “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” (vs. 1 & 2)

**POSTLUDE**

\*Please stand, if able.

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**Welcome to our worship!** May God speak with you and touch your life. If you are a visitor, please feel free to take a **Welcome Folder or Guide for Kids** found in the Sanctuary door racks. Please complete the Visitor Information Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering.

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**Everyone is invited** to coffee hour in Fellowship Hall after the services.

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**THE CHURCH GATHERS**

**PRELUDE** “Second Movement” from the First Organ Sonata

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL GREETING** “Call to Worship” The Adult Choir

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**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**      “Le’s Have a Union”                    Clary

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