



Gathering


LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Rogers

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is calling us into a life worthy of God's love,

All: With all humility and gentleness, may we bear with one another in love.

One: May we worship in the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace;

All: There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

One: One God of us all, who is above all, and through all, and in all;

All: Come, let us worship our God, joined together in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*** HYMN 399***God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN

You may greet those around you as you sing.

*** HYMN 401**

*Gather Us In
(Here in This Place)*

GATHER US IN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Women: O living Creator, O generous Compassion, you are our place of courage.

***Men:* Here we can pause; here we can rest, and here meet again our weakness.**

Women: Here we are nourished to face the fury of the world..

***Men:* Living, loving, God, we seek in you the gift of life. We do not come for ourselves alone, but for our church, our community, our nation, our world. We come in sorrow and trust for those bound to us by ties of faith, knowledge, school, and kinship.**

Women: We come for those who are different from us, distant, separate and so many. We come because we have failed in love and peace. We have failed in mercy and justice.

***Men:* We have not kept your commandments of grace. We have not carried your cross nor have we fed your sheep.**

Women: We have not built up your kingdom of hope and peace.

***Men:* Living God, we seek you in the mercy of renewal.**

Women: Living God, as a community, as a nation, even as your Church we have turned away from the things that make for peace and give life. Forgive us for the evils in our midst.

***Men:* Loving God, we seek in you the grace of healing. Living God, we come bearing the incurable wound of the world, hearing and feeling all too clearly the cry of the world's pain, and of our own. Receive us, forgive us, heal us, restore us. Give us new spirits of hope and peace.**

SILENT CONFESSION**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS***** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as God's people. Greet one another saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," and respond, "And also with you."

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cheryl Gulbranson (8:00)

Helena Prince (11:00)

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 4:1–16

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*** HYMN 300**

*We Are One in the Spirit
(They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)*

GOSPEL READING

Mark 2:1–12

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A Door Set Open

Rev. Sanderford

*** PROFESSION OF FAITH** (from *The Sarasota Statement*)

We, as people of faith, trust that God's transforming Word continuously meets us anew, and so we seek silence for reflecting, discerning, and imagining the Kingdom of God. We grieve the ways our silence indulges cowardice, justifies irresponsibility, and promotes fear in the face of injustice. Such silence leaves room for falsehood and complacency to choke out truth and compassion. As those being made new, we partner with Christ in bringing the Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. We decry any attempt to co-opt the gospel for purposes of excluding those whom Jesus sought, welcomed, and made his own. We trust that God is always at work in our world and in our lives, giving us joy and calling us to be faithful to Jesus' vision of the Kingdom.

*** HYMN 750**

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

GOODNESS IS STRONGER

*** HYMN 749**

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

WELCOME

Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to others sitting nearby.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

*** Doxology**

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

*** Prayer of Dedication**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (8:00)

See Communion Card

Please join the soloist singing:

You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat; come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

This response is Hymn 523.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*** HYMN 79**

Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** HYMN 80**

You Shall Go Out with Joy

THE TREES OF THE FIELD