

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**  
**TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 15, 2020**  
**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

**PRELUDE**

*Dennis Duda, organ*

**A PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

*You have given us each many talents, Gracious Creator, and we give thanks to you for such generosity and kindness. You have given us, as a community, many opportunities to reflect your beauty, wisdom, and love, and for this, we give thanks. You have bestowed upon us opportunities to invest the gifts you have given us – to reach out in faithful joy and to share from our abundance. And you have called us together in worship and invite us to be accountable to you for our lives and our love. Be with us as we gather and help us to boldly proclaim the ways we have shared your love; through the gifts you have given us. Hear our songs, prayers, and silences as testimony of our stewardship. And bless us as we worship – increase our strength and courage through this time, we pray. Amen.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**SENTENCES OF ADORATION**

**OPENING HYMN: TAKE MY GIFTS**

1 Take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me,  
gave me light and food and shelter,  
gave me life and set me free,  
now because your love has touched  
me, I have love to give away;  
now the bread of love is rising,  
loaves of love to multiply!

3 Take whatever I can offer -  
gifts that I have yet to find,  
skills that I am slow to sharpen,  
talents of the hand and mind,  
things made beautiful for others  
in the place where I must be:  
take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me.

2 Take the fruit that I have gathered  
from the tree your Spirit sowed,  
harvest of your own compassion,  
juice that makes the wine of God;  
spiced with humor, laced with  
laughter - flavor of the Jesus life,  
tang of risk and new adventure,  
taste and zest beyond belief.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Pastor: We lift our eyes to you, O God; we lift our spirits in worship.

**Unison: We look to you, seeking guidance and comfort.**

Pastor: We look to you seeking healing and renewal.

**Unison: We look to you, seeking mercy and grace;**

Pastor: for we have had our fill of struggles and stress.

**Unison: We have had more than our fill of worrying and wondering.**

Pastor: To you, O God, we lift our eyes and spirits, with hope and confidence in your love.

**Unison: Be known to us as we worship and help us find rest.**

## **REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE**

### **CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:**

Pastor: You bestowed upon us many talents, and we confess we have often squandered them.

**Unison: You gave us lands and seas, mountains and plains; and we confess we have polluted and allowed for their demise.**

Pastor: You gave us diversity in ethnicity, culture, and race; and we confess we have often used these to uphold and support division.

**Unison: You gave us creatures and plants, flora and fauna beyond imagining; and we confess we have consumed and overtaken habitats, allowing whole species to disappear.**

Pastor: You gave us humanity in miraculous diversity. We confess we have failed to invest in this beauty and celebrate it, and have allowed prejudice and judgment to create suffering for too many.

**Unison: You entrusted us with so much, and yet we allowed our fears to overtake us and failed to bring new life in the abundance possible in your love.**

Pastor: Forgive us, Holy Wisdom, and teach us again how to trust in you, how to live in the hopeful knowledge that you will multiply our investments, and be with us all the ways. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

### **ASSURANCE**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:**

**Old Testament:** Judges 4:1 – 7

**New Testament:** Matthew 25:14 – 30

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON: *Stewardship is Risky ... As it Should Be***

## DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

**Unison:** Jesus stays with us in the Spirit, who renews our hearts, moves us to faith, leads us in the truth, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant. The Spirit's gifts are here to stay in rich variety—fitting responses to timely needs. We thankfully see each other as gifted members of the fellowship which delights in the creative Spirit's work. He gives more than enough to each believer for God's praise and our neighbor's welfare.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Pastor:** You have given us song! Help us to invest in this gift and sing with abandon!

**Unison:** You have given us dance! Help us to invest in this gift and move our bodies with joyful exuberance.

**Pastor:** You have given us a natural world to care for. Help us to invest in this gift and plant seeds, protect habitat, decrease our carbon footprint, and relish in the delights of your harvest.

**Unison:** You have given us responsibilities. Help us to invest in these gifts by recognizing them not as burdens, but as blessings and opportunities to show you our love and devotion.

**Pastor:** You have given us relationships. Help us to invest in these gifts and discover how they offer us new dimensions to our souls. Help us to honor and cherish everyone.

**Unison:** You have given us community. Help us invest in this gift and open the doors wide to any in need of our communion, of a safe harbor, and the nourishment of welcome. You have given us your Holy Spirit. Help us to invest in this gift and be a people of justice, peace, and renewal. We thank you, Great God, for all the gifts of our lives. May we invest them wisely and joyfully.

### *Pause for private intercessions*

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.  
We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;

**Unison:** 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.

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

### THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *DARE YOU TO MOVE* – J. Foreman

*Darin Jellison*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Unison:** Here it is – our treasure – returning to you what you have given to us. Bless and sanctify it, we pray, that it may multiply and increase in every way, through your love and promise. Amen.

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

### CLOSING HYMN: *O HOW GLORIOUS, FULL OF WONDER*

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1. O how glorious, full of wonder  
Is your name o'er all the earth;  
God, who wrought creation's splendor,  
Bringing suns and stars to birth!  
Rapt in reverence we adore you,  
Marveling at your mystic ways.  
Humbly now we bow before you,  
Lifting up our hearts in praise.
2. When we see your lights of heaven,  
Moon and stars, your power displayed,  
Who are we that you should love us,  
Creatures that your hand has made?  
Born of earth, yet full of yearning,  
Mixture strange of good and ill,  
From your ways so often turning,  
Yet your love does seek us still.
3. You have set us in communion  
With the wonders of your hand,  
Made us fly with eagle pinion,  
Pilgrims over sea and land.  
Soaring spire and ruined city,  
These our hopes and failures show.  
Teach us more of human pity,  
That we in your image grow.
4. O how wondrous, O how glorious  
Is your name in every land!  
God, whose purpose shines before us  
Toward the goal that you have planned.  
Yours the will our hearts are seeking,  
Conscious of our human need.  
Spirit in our spirit speaking,  
Make us yours, O God, indeed!

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Dennis Duda, organ*

*Special thanks to Darin Jellison for his gift of music and song,  
and to Darin and Noah Jellison for operating the live streaming camera today.  
Blessings to all!*