

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Welcome

Call to Worship: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

We gather as God's beloved children –

However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community –

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

We come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with each other.

Let us worship God, the Creator and Sustainer of all life, and of our life.

Opening Song: Come People of the Risen King

God's Greeting

Greet Each Other

Time of Praise: King of Kings

Build My Life

Prayer of Confession:

Heavenly Father, we sing that we live for you, but we confess that we often see difficult circumstances and discouragement as barriers to doing the work you have called us to do. At times we feel so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. Rather than rejoicing in what you have provided, we lament that we do not have more. Help us to see the gifts that you give, and the life that is possible in them. Help us to see you as our center, and to cling to the good that you create in the world. Make your Holy Spirit's work clear so that we can follow and glorify you, finding joy and encouragement on the way. May we grow even more into Christ's likeness, that we will bear his love and truth to the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Hear the good news:

"Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave...
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross."

Through his obedience we are freed from sin.

Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Through Jesus, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Song of Thanksgiving: Living Hope

Children's Blessing

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading: James 1:1-6

Sermon

Song of Response: Holy Spirit Living Breath of God

Prayers of the people

(Offerings taken at the door)

God's Parting Blessing

Closing Song: Blessed Be Your Name