

**January 30, 2022 Worship Service  
Joy-Filled Worship**

**Opening Words**

God has gathered us to this place,  
where we hear those stories which show us  
what the kingdom of God is like.  
God summons us to this place,  
where we can learn how to serve our God  
without reservation, or hesitation.  
God will send us from this place,  
to tell others of God's hopes and dreams,  
so they, too, can choose to follow God.

**Call to Worship**

The day demands that we begin in praise of you, O God,  
**for the day is yours and we are yours;  
we could not live the day without reference to you,  
without your gifts, without your commands.**

We begin with praise,  
**for the gift of life,  
for the gift of our life together,  
for the gift of life in your world  
with all your beloved creatures,  
for the gift of life in your church,  
with your steady recital of wonders.**

Come, let's praise God together!  
**For God is great, and worthy of our praise!**

Let's tell stories of God's power and majesty,  
His mighty acts throughout history:  
**for God is great, and worthy of our praise!**

Let's remember the compassion He has shown toward us;  
His mercy and unfailing love, generation after generation:  
**for God is great, and worthy of our praise!**

Let's pass these stories along to our friends and family,  
to our children and grandchildren,  
so that all may come to know and love our God.  
**for God is great, and worthy of our praise!  
We will thank him. We will worship him.  
For God is sheer beauty,  
all-generous in love,  
loyal always and ever.  
We will worship God with joy  
and begin this day in hope and deep gladness!**

*Song:           Cornerstone*

God's Greeting  
We greet each other

*Songs:           Because He Lives (birthday song for Kase Spelt)  
                      How Deep the Father's Love For Us (birthday song for Peter Braak)*

## **Confession**

Loving God, we take this time today to come before you,  
but as we do, we are aware that all is not right within us.  
We often neglect your word,  
we fail to spend much time reflecting on your ways for us,  
we forget to speak with you,  
we make plans without turning to you,  
we do things that we know are wrong.  
We did not always put you first in our lives.

**Forgive how we have failed to love you  
with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength.**

Loving God,  
our relationships with each other are not all that they can be or should be.  
There is hurt and injury between ourselves and others.  
There are walls of anger and hatred between us and our neighbors.

**Forgive us for how we deny our part in this  
and for how we blame others for the brokenness around us.  
Forgive how we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Loving God,  
we do not always recognize your gifts of grace and love,  
we do not always live with hearts of joy,  
our worship often lacks our full attention and whole heart.

**Gracious God,  
You offer to us and our world a life that can flourish and give life.  
For all that we have done to deny this life to each other and to  
ourselves, we ask your forgiveness and your mercy.**

## **Words of Assurance** *(based on Psalm 103)*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
as you choose again this day to love God and to love one another,  
hear the good news concerning the love and forgiveness of God:

*"As far as the east is from the west,  
so far does God remove our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;  
for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust."*

**AMEN! This is sure to be!**

Song:            *Ancient of Days*  
Congregational Prayer

Children's Blessing  
Prayer of Illumination  
Scripture:    Ezra 6:3-22  
Sermon:      Joy filled Worship  
Communion

Song:            *We Will Feast in the House of Zion*  
God's Parting Blessing  
Song:            *By Faith*

Offerings:    1. Woody Nook Ministries  
                  2. Cadets - Grand Rapids