

**Order of Worship  
February 20, 2022**

**Responsive Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we celebrate

that where people are gathered together in love:

**You are present and good things happen and life is full.**

We celebrate that we are immersed in your mystery and  
our lives are more than they seem:

**We belong to each other**

**and live in a universe filled with all your beloved creatures,  
whose source and destiny is you, our God.**

We celebrate that your spirit beat in the heart of Jesus of Nazareth:

**The good news of your healing, embracing and liberating love  
was heard by the broken, the lonely**

**and all bound by life's sorrows and struggles.**

We celebrate that the spirit of peace and hope is present  
with us and through us:

**In our struggle to love**

**we embody your holy presence in our world.**

And so, aware of the hurts and longings all of us carry,

the awe and wonder that is around us,

and the gifts of faith and this community of faith:

**We pause and we become ever aware  
of the sacredness of our lives.**

In that awareness may we act and speak and live.

May it be so...

**Amen!**

**Call to Worship**

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,  
our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

**We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,  
we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.**

We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.

young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched,

lift the new, new songs of faith.

*Song: Let All Things Now Living* (bday song Ria Talsma)

God's greeting

We greet each other

*Song: Creation Calls* (bday song Deenie Spelt)

## **Prayer of Confession**

You know better than we do, God of Delight and Joy and Celebration,  
what important people we believe we are.

Believing we have to be serious all the time,  
we miss out on the joy of your creation.

Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,  
we skip the picnic offered in Paradise.

Clinging to the despair which is our best friend,  
we ignore Jesus.

who can bring us home to your heart.

Forgive us, Heart of Joy,

and make us open to the startling and upside-down  
ways in which you work.

**Fill us with Easter's laughter;**

**fill us with your healing joy;**

**fill us with the love poured into us**

**through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*Song: The Heart of Worship*

## **Assurance of God's Gift of Joy**

The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us  
through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were  
healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this  
joy is now given to us.

**Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy.**

**We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed,**

**to bring healing to the broken,**

**to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness.**

*Song: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (bday song Simon Leenstra)*

Congregational Prayer

Children's Blessing

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-18

Sermon: The Discipline of Celebration

*Songs: 10000 Reasons*

*Blessed Be Your Name*

God's Parting Blessing

*Song: Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Offerings at the door

1. Woody Nook Ministries
2. World Renew