

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

August 25, 2019

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."
~ Yoda

PRELUDE *Dawn Meditation* E. Butler

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

INTROIT *Sing A New Song To The Lord* D.G. Wilson
Charlene Hicks, Suzanne Hyatt

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come before You Lord,

People: You, the force that binds together all of creation.

Leader: When darkness rises, You entrust us with the power that will be its undoing.

People: We come this morning to learn more of Your ways, to grow in our power as bearers of goodness and mercy.

Leader: Let us walk this journey together.

People: Our trust is in You: O Lord, lead the way.

*HYMN *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* GG: 23

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Lord, we come seeking the pathway to the good, to the light, and yet we know that we sometimes go astray. Forgive us when we allow our fears to push us into anger, because it feels more powerful than fear. Forgive us when we let that anger steep too long and it settles into hate. Forgive us when we allow ourselves to tread down that path to the dark side, giving way to suffering in this world, both for ourselves and others. Lord, take our failures and renew us, reminding us that, "the greatest teacher, failure is." Give us strength to not just try, but do.

(A moment for silent examination and confession.)

Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: You pour out your grace to us and for us. We are forgiven and renewed in God's light.

People: You are our greatest teacher and we seek to learn your ways that lead to life. Continue to mold us and transform us as your disciples. Amen.

*RESPONSE *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil* GG: 750

**All: Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM *The Lord Is My Light* Oley Speaks
Charlene Hicks, Suzanne Hyatt

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* GG: 307

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:1-14, pg. 211

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 2:24-47, pg. 821

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *The Gospel According to Science Fiction* Rev. Abbie Huff

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Andantino* F. J. Haydn

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* tune GG: 606

All: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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**

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN *Here I Am, Lord* GG: 69

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *He Is Exalted* Twila Paris

In the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ declares:

"I command that you love one another as I have loved you...by this, all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

You have been called by God to this service, and we ask that you now publicly affirm your commitment to this work.

Leader: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

YAVs: *I will, with God's help.*

Leader: Will you accept the persons whom you serve right where they are and just the way they are?

YAVs: *I will, with God's help.*

Leader: Will you seek to work in glad cooperation and mutual support with other workers, being sensitive and helpful according to the needs presented to you?

YAVs: *I will, with God's help.*

Leader: Will you conduct yourself in a manner which will demonstrate your love of Christ and the church which you represent?

YAVs: *I will, with God's help.*

Leader: Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, an love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

YAVs: *I will, with God's help.*

Leader: At this time, we commission you to go out in the world and share the love of Jesus Christ through service to our sisters and brothers, wherever you may go. You go as representatives of Christ and the church. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of our loving God.

Congregation: We rejoice to recognize you as representatives of our body of faith, and thank God for your dedication and your gift of service. We send you forth with our prayers and our support, and with you, we renew our commitment to God and service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray God's blessings for you, your sisters and brothers in the YAV program, and our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Amen.