

**September 1, 2024**

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: God calls us this day to a life of joy.

**People: With God, joy cracks through the bonds of despair.**

Leader: With God, joy bursts forth from moments of quiet pleasure.

**People: With God, joy gilds the edges of even ordinary days.**

**ALL: This is the day which our God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**\*Hymn #417: "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"**

*using (\*) alternate last stanza for Holy Communion*

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Scripture:**

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Jan Derry

**Special Music:**

Wei-Der Huang & Laura Knutson

**Time With Young Disciples**

Stacy Hindalong

**\*Unison Prayer**

**Loving God, we rejoice to be with you and with one another. You are the God who makes all things new and who redeems our past. In life, we find the fullness of life—from joy beyond measure to despair that consumes. Your presence sustains us through the depths and the plateaus. Amen.**

**Sermon: "A Longing"**

**\*Hymn #478: "I've Got Peace Like a River"**

**The Community at Prayer** (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

**Prayer Response**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)*

### **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Generous God, bless these gifts that we share for the flourishing of all your Beloveds. Prosper the work of our hands, order the steps in our days, and align the balance of our resources. In our time, talent, and treasure, may you be glorified. Amen.**

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

**In the company with all believers in every time, and beyond time, we come to this table, to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made.... Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere saying:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

## **Prayers of Institution and Consecration**

## **Sharing of the Elements**

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #488: "Be Still, My Soul"**

### **\*Commissioning and Blessing**

### **\*Postlude**