

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP FROM PSALM 86

There is none like you among the gods, O God, nor are there works like yours. All the people you have made shall come and bow down before you. They shall glorify your name. For you do wondrous things. You alone are God. Teach us your way, O God, that we may walk in your truth; give us an undivided heart to revere your name. And we will give thanks to you, O God, with our whole hearts, and we will forever praise your name.

For great is your steadfast love toward us, you have delivered our souls from the depths of Sheol.

* HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me 267



1 Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?
4 Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Gracious God, who we have seen in Christ and in the many ways by which you are all around us, God, in whom we hold all things together – we have not enough turned to you as One.

We have consumed the inheritance of the generations to come;

we have fed the Leviathan of war; we have watched those in need from a distance, from too far, far too often.

We sometimes forget those in prison, those with too little clothing, in sickness, struggling in being alone, or walking always in hunger are not us. Oh, but they are. Forgive us when we forget others, thinking only of ourselves – forgetting that we cannot be who you have called us to be without each other.

SILENT PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION:

RESPONSE:

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on Me.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: We are loved and forgiven by God. **Amen.**

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let the peace of Jesus the Christ be with you all! **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: PSALM 123

I look to you, heaven-dwelling God, look up to you for help. Like workers, alert to their employer's commands, like a maiden attending her lady, we're watching and waiting, holding our breath, awaiting your word of mercy. Mercy, God, mercy! We've been kicked around long enough, kicked in the teeth by complacent powerful people, kicked when we're down by arrogant brutes.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 25: 14-30

"It's also like owner going off on an extended trip who calls the employees together and delegated responsibilities. To one was given five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then the boss leaves. Right off, the first employee went to work and doubled the owner's investment. The second did the same. But the one with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried the owner's money.

"After a long absence, the boss came back and settled up with the employees. The one given five thousand dollars showed a doubling in the investment. The owner commended the employee: 'Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

"The employee with the two thousand had also doubled the owner's investment. 'Good work!' said the employer. 'You did your job well. From now on be my partner.'

"The worker given one thousand said, 'Boss, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.'

"The owner was furious. 'That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

"Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this "play-it-safe" who won't go out on a limb. Throw this one out into utter darkness.'

SERMON *ARE YOU USING YOUR GIFTS*

GLORIA-JEAN SKEETE, NYTS

1. *Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy
 hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

PREPARING FOR THE OFFERING

In this world, someone has too much. **Someone has barely enough, someone has nothing at all.**

When we share our commitment and financial support, we act on the imagination of Jesus. **Jesus, who sees enough bread to go around, enough courage to speak the truth, and enough love to overcome all things.**

O God, to those of us who have hunger, give bread. And to those of us who have bread, give the hunger for justice. **When the 5,000 were hungry, the disciples came to Jesus and said: "Send the people away, so they may get something to eat."** Jesus answered: "You give them something to eat."

OFFERTORY MUSIC

BLESSING THE OFFERING: And the people reached in their pockets and pulled out the bread and the fishes and shared them, and there was abundance for all, and even more. **Amen.**

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT US (IN UNISON)

Our Mother/Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kindom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kindom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*** HYMN: COMFORT, COMFORT YOU MY PEOPLE**

1. Com - fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
 2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing In the des - ert far and near,
 3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain;

Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.
 Bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, And their war - fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing And the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

BLESSING RESPONSE: Thanks be to God!

BENEDICTION Sung Blessing (in English or Czech)

Christians rise and act your creed,
 Let your prayer be in your deed;
 Seek the right, perform the true,
 Raise your work and life anew.
 Come then law divine and reign,
 Freest faith assailed in vain.
 Perfect love, bereft of fear,
 born in heaven and radiant here. Amen.

Amen to pozehnani prjdziz na nas vsecky,
 Abychom po skonani vesli v raj nebesky,
 A tam s angelskou risi, boha take ctilli,
 Dejz nam to; o Jezisi, spasitely mily.
 Amen.

POSTLUDE

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 A WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.