



November 12, 2023
Sunday Gathering

.....
-PRELUDE-

“Christ, Be Our Light” – arr. M. Hayes
Brenda Gardiner

-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-

We acknowledge that the place where we are gathered today is the ancient and ancestral homeland of more than twenty Indigenous tribes. We mourn the loss of their lives, livelihoods, homes, and cultures, and acknowledge the legacy of violence against them.

We acknowledge that the space where we worship today was established and built by those whose Black ancestors were also abused and mistreated - some even bought and sold as enslaved people right here in our city.

We acknowledge the women who've faced unfair treatment and misogyny throughout the ages and we acknowledge those who identify as LGBTQ or other who've been mistreated and misunderstood.

We acknowledge our role and responsibility as professed followers of Christ to stand for and alongside all of these and others who have been and continue to be oppressed.

-SINGING TOGETHER-

“Welcome”

LET'S WALK TOGETHER FOR A WHILE
AND ASK WHERE WE BEGIN
TO BUILD A WORLD WHERE LOVE CAN GROW
AND HOPE CAN ENTER IN,
TO BE THE HANDS OF HEALING
AND TO PLANT THE SEED OF PEACE,

SINGING WELCOME,
WELCOME TO THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE INVITED
TO COME AND KNOW GOD'S GRACE.
ALL ARE WELCOME,
THE LOVE OF GOD TO SHARE.

'CAUSE ALL OF US ARE WELCOME HERE;
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

-WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-GREETING EACH OTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Welcome"

SINGING WELCOME,
WELCOME TO THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE INVITED
TO COME AND KNOW GOD'S GRACE.
ALL ARE WELCOME,
THE LOVE OF GOD TO SHARE.
'CAUSE ALL OF US ARE WELCOME HERE;
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

Thank you, God, for teaching us;
THANK YOU FOR OPENING OUR MINDS TO
NEW WAYS OF KNOWING.

Thank you, God, for being patient with us;
THANK YOU FOR FORMING US \
THROUGH MOMENTS AND EXPERIENCES.

Thank you for dreams and visions;
THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING US
TO BE YOUR VESSELS.

-OPENING PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

IN THE MIDST OF NEW DIMENSIONS,
IN THE FACE OF CHANGING WAYS,
WHO WILL LEAD THE PILGRIM PEOPLES
WANDERING IN THEIR SEPARATE WAYS?

GOD OF RAINBOW, FIERY PILLAR,
LEADING WHERE THE EAGLES SOAR,
WE YOUR PEOPLE, OURS THE JOURNEY

NOW AND EVER, NOW AND EVER,
NOW AND EVERMORE.

THROUGH THE FLOOD OF STARVING PEOPLE,
WARRING FACTIONS AND DESPAIR,
WHO WILL LIFT THE OLIVE BRANCHES?
WHO WILL LIGHT THE FLAME OF CARE?

GOD OF RAINBOW, FIERY PILLAR,
LEADING WHERE THE EAGLES SOAR,
WE YOUR PEOPLE, OURS THE JOURNEY
NOW AND EVER, NOW AND EVER,
NOW AND EVERMORE.

AS WE STAND A WORLD DIVIDED
BY OUR OWN SELF-SEEKING SCHEMES,
GRANT THAT WE, YOUR GLOBAL VILLAGE,
MIGHT ENVISION WIDER DREAMS.

GOD OF RAINBOW, FIERY PILLAR,
LEADING WHERE THE EAGLES SOAR,
WE YOUR PEOPLE, OURS THE JOURNEY
NOW AND EVER, NOW AND EVER,
NOW AND EVERMORE.

-SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Gentle Shepherd"

GENTLE SHEPHERD, COME AND LEAD US,
FOR WE NEED YOU TO HELP US FIND OUR WAY.
GENTLE SHEPHERD, COME AND FEED US,
FOR WE NEED YOUR STRENGTH FROM DAY TO DAY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WE CAN TURN TO
WHO CAN HELP US FACE ANOTHER DAY.
GENTLE SHEPHERD, COME AND LEAD US,
FOR WE NEED YOU TO HELP US FIND OUR WAY.

-PASTORAL PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Gentle Shepherd"

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WE CAN TURN TO
WHO CAN HELP US FACE ANOTHER DAY.

GENTLE SHEPHERD, COME AND LEAD US,
FOR WE NEED YOU TO HELP US FIND OUR WAY.

-SCRIPTURE-

Luke 15: 11-13, 25-28, 21-32 (CEB)

“A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him.

Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

-THE MESSAGE-

"A Prodigal Party"

Kenny Bishop

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"The Open Table"

COME, OH COME, COME TO THE TABLE.
GATHER 'ROUND, COME WITHOUT FEAR.
KNOWN BY NAME HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE, TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

CIRCLE 'ROUND, LET'S JOIN TOGETHER.
SHARE YOUR JOYS, AND BRING YOUR TEARS.
STRENGTH AND HOPE FOUND AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE, TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

GOD IS LOVE; LOVE IS CREATING
SOMETHING NEW, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
WE'RE CHILDREN OF GOD, HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE, TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

-COMMUNION-

"Open the Eyes of My Hear" - arr. P. Keveren

-OFFERING-

"This Is My Father's World" – arr. P. Keveren

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Welcome"

LET'S WALK TOGETHER FOR A WHILE
AND ASK WHERE WE BEGIN
TO BUILD A WORLD WHERE LOVE CAN GROW
AND HOPE CAN ENTER IN,
TO BE THE HANDS OF HEALING
AND TO PLANT THE SEEDS OF PEACE,

SINGING WELCOME,
WELCOME TO THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE INVITED
TO COME AND KNOW GOD'S GRACE.
ALL ARE WELCOME,
THE LOVE OF GOD TO SHARE.
'CAUSE ALL OF US ARE WELCOME HERE;
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

LET'S TALK TOGETHER OF A TIME
WHEN WE WILL SHARE A FEAST,
WHERE PRIDE AND POWER KNEEL TO SERVE
THE LONELY AND THE LEAST,
AND JOY WILL SET THE TABLE
AS JOIN OUR HANDS TO PRAY,

SINGING WELCOME,
WELCOME TO THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE INVITED
TO COME AND KNOW GOD'S GRACE.
ALL ARE WELCOME,
THE LOVE OF GOD TO SHARE.
'CAUSE ALL OF US ARE WELCOME HERE;
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

LET'S DREAM TOGETHER OF A DAY
WHEN EARTH AND HEAV'N ARE ONE,
A CITY BUILT OF LOVE AND LIGHT,
THE NEW JERUSALEM,

WHERE OUR MOURNING TURNS TO DANCING,
EVERY CREATURE LIFTS ITS VOICE,

SINGING WELCOME,
WELCOME TO THIS PLACE.

YOU'RE INVITED
TO COME AND KNOW GOD'S GRACE.

ALL ARE WELCOME,
THE LOVE OF GOD TO SHARE.

'CAUSE ALL OF US ARE WELCOME HERE;
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Welcome"

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