



October 15, 2023
Sunday Gathering

-PRELUDE-

"You'll Never Walk Alone" – Rogers/Hammerstein
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-

"For All the Children"

GOD, WE GATHER AS YOUR PEOPLE
TO RAISE OUR SONG ABOVE,
AND WE DARE TO CLAIM THE PROMISE OF YOUR LOVE,
THOUGH THE DAY MAY NOT YET BE HERE
WE TRUST IT SOON WILL BE,
WHEN YOUR CHILDREN WILL BE FREE.

O, MAY OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BE OPENED,
FLING THE CHURCH DOORS OPEN WIDE.
MAY THERE BE ROOM ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE INSIDE.
FOR IN GOD THERE IS A WELCOME,
IN GOD WE ALL BELONG.
MAY THAT WELCOME BE OUR SONG.

-WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-GREETING EACH OTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"For All the Children"

O, MAY OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BE OPENED,
FLING THE CHURCH DOORS OPEN WIDE.
MAY THERE BE ROOM ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE INSIDE.
FOR IN GOD THERE IS A WELCOME,
IN GOD WE ALL BELONG.
MAY THAT WELCOME BE OUR SONG.

*** -CALL TO WORSHIP-**

In a world filled with violence and war,
WE GATHER TOGETHER
TO CELEBRATE THE PROMISE OF PEACE.

In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,
WE GATHER TOGETHER
TO CELEBRATE THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE FOR ALL.

In a world filled with hunger and greed,
WE GATHER TOGETHER
TO CELEBRATE THE PROMISE OF PLENTY FOR ALL.

Our hope is in our mighty and loving God,
THE CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND SUSTAINER
OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

-OPENING PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Lead Us From Death to Life"

LEAD US FROM DEATH TO LIFE,
FROM FALSEHOOD TO TRUTH,
FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE,
FROM FEAR TO TRUST.
LEAD US FROM HATE TO LOVE,
FROM WAR TO PEACE;
LET PEACE FILL OUR HEARTS,
LET PEACE FILL OUR WORLD,
LET PEACE FILL OUR UNIVERSE.

STILL ALL THE ANGRY CRIES,
STILL ALL THE ANGRY GUNS,
STILL NOW CREATION DIES,

HUMANS AND CREATURES.
LET JUSTICE ROLL,
LET MERCY POUR DOWN,
COME AND TEACH US YOUR WAY OF COMPASSION.

LEAD US FROM DEATH TO LIFE,
FROM FALSEHOOD TO TRUTH,
FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE,
FROM FEAR TO TRUST.
LEAD US FROM HATE TO LOVE,
FROM WAR TO PEACE;
LET PEACE FILL OUR HEARTS,
LET PEACE FILL OUR WORLD,
LET PEACE FILL OUR UNIVERSE.

SO MANY LONELY HEARTS,
SO MANY BROKEN LIVES,
LONGING FOR LOVE TO BREAK
INTO THEIR ANGUISH.
COME, TEACH US LOVE,
COME TEACH US PEACE,
COME AND TEACH US YOUR WAY OF COMPASSION.

LEAD US FROM DEATH TO LIFE,
FROM FALSEHOOD TO TRUTH,
FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE,
FROM FEAR TO TRUST.
LEAD US FROM HATE TO LOVE,
FROM WAR TO PEACE;
LET PEACE FILL OUR HEARTS,
LET PEACE FILL OUR WORLD,
LET PEACE FILL OUR UNIVERSE.

LET JUSTICE EVER ROLL,
LET MERCY FILL THE EARTH,
LET US BEGIN TO GROW
INTO YOUR PEOPLE.
WE CAN BE LOVE.
WE CAN BRING PEACE.
WE CAN STILL BE YOUR WAY OF COMPASSION.

LEAD US FROM DEATH TO LIFE,
FROM FALSEHOOD TO TRUTH,
FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE,
FROM FEAR TO TRUST.
LEAD US FROM HATE TO LOVE,

FROM WAR TO PEACE;
LET PEACE FILL OUR HEARTS,
LET PEACE FILL OUR WORLD,
LET PEACE FILL OUR UNIVERSE.

-SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT IN THIS PLACE;
LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
SEND US LOVE, SEND US POW'R, SEND US GRACE.

-PASTORAL PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
SEND US LOVE, SEND US POW'R, SEND US GRACE.

-SCRIPTURE-

Luke 6: 27-31 (ESV)

*²⁷ "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. **31** And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.*

-THE MESSAGE-

"Us"

Kenny Bishop

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"As We Gather at Your Table"

AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE,
AS WE LISTEN TO YOUR WORD,
HELP US KNOW, O GOD, YOUR PRESENCE;
LET OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BE STIRRED.
NOURISH US WITH SACRED STORY
TILL WE CLAIM IT AS YOUR OWN;
TEACH US THROUGH THIS HOLY BANQUET
HOW TO MAKE LOVE'S VICTORY KNOWN.

-COMMUNION-

"As We Gather at Your Table" - arr. E. Carlson

-OFFERING-

"Take Time to Be Holy" - arr. P. Hamm

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH,
FOR THE SPLENDOR OF THE SKIES,
FOR THE LOVE WHICH FROM OUR BIRTH
OVER AND AROUND US LIES,
GOD OF ALL, TO YOU WE RAISE
THIS OUR HYMN OF GRATEFUL PRAISE.

FOR THE WONDER OF EACH HOUR
OF THE DAY AND OF THE NIGHT,
HILL AND VALE, AND TREE AND FLOWER,
SUN AND MOON, AND STARS OF LIGHT,
GOD OF ALL, TO YOU WE RAISE
THIS OUR HYMN OF GRATEFUL PRAISE.

FOR THE JOY OF HUMAN LOVE,
FAM'LY, FRIENDS, AND LOVED ONES NEAR,
THOSE ON EARTH, AND THOSE ABOVE
BRING US JOY ALL THROUGH THE YEARS.
GOD OF ALL, TO YOU WE RAISE
THIS OUR HYMN OF GRATEFUL PRAISE.

FOR THE GOOD THAT LOVE INSPIRES,
FOR A WORLD WHERE NONE EXCLUDE,
FOR A FAITH THAT NEVER TIRES,
AND FOR EVERY HEART RENEWED,
GOD OF ALL, TO YOU WE RAISE
THIS OUR HYMN OF GRATEFUL PRAISE.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

GOD OF ALL, TO YOU WE RAISE
THIS OUR HYMN OF GRATEFUL PRAISE.

*Call to Worship: from On Earth as in Heaven: Praying for Peace, MCC Peace Sunday 2008