



December 29, 2024
Sunday Gathering

.....

-PRELUDE-

"Arioso" – J. S. Bach
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 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.

-WELCOME-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Welcome"

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 WE 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.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

We gather:
A COMMUNITY OF FAITH IN GOD'S SUBVERSIVE WORLD.

We gather to celebrate
THAT NO DARKNESS CAN EXTINGUISH LIGHT,

We gather to remember
THAT LOVE WILL ALWAYS BE MORE POWERFUL THAN DEATH,

and to trust that
PEACE WILL ALWAYS BE STRONGER THAN VIOLENCE.

We gather,
PEOPLE OF FAITH IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORLD.

Let us worship God.

-PRAYER-

-GREETING ONE ANOTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Gather Us In"

HERE IN THIS PLACE A NEW LIGHT IS STREAMING,
NOW IS THE DARKNESS VANISHED AWAY,
SEE IN THIS SPACE OUR FEARS AND OUR DREAMINGS,
BROUGHT HERE TO YOU IN THE LIGHT OF THIS DAY.

GATHER US IN, THE LOST AND FORSAKEN,
GATHER US IN, THE BLIND AND THE LAME;
CALL TO US NOW, AND WE SHALL AWAKEN,
WE SHALL ARISE AT THE SOUND OF YOUR NAME.

WE ARE THE YOUNG, OUR LIVES ARE A MYST'RY,
WE ARE THE OLD WHO YEARN FOR YOUR FACE,
WE HAVE BEEN SUNG THROUGHOUT ALL OF HIST'RY,
CALLED TO BE LIGHT TO THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE.

GATHER US IN, THE RICH AND THE HAUGHTY,
GATHER US IN, THE PROUD AND THE STRONG;
GIVE US A HEART SO MEEK AND SO LOWLY,
GIVE US THE COURAGE TO ENTER THE SONG.

-SCRIPTURE-

Psalms 133: 1-3 (MES)

How wonderful, how beautiful, when [all people] get along! It's like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard, flowing down Aaron's beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes. It's like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion. Yes, that's where God commands the blessing,

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

"The Vagabond"

Neal Scott

-SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS-

-COMMUNION READING-

The table has been prepared, as Jesus requested,
and all of us are invited to a meal.
COME TO THE TABLE-

Like Peter, with more enthusiasm than resolve,
like James and John, dismayed by the priorities of God's reign
COME TO THE TABLE-

Like Martha, hosting and leading with confidence,
like Mary, full of love and grief.
COME TO THE TABLE-

like Judas, disillusioned and rebellious,
like Mary Magdalene, faithful to the end.
COME TO THE TABLE-

NO MATTER WHO WE ARE
NO MATTER WHAT WE'VE DONE
WE ARE WELCOME TO COME AND EAT!

-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.

GRACIOUS SPIRIT, HELP US SUMMON
OTHER GUESTS TO SHARE THE FEAST
WHERE TRIUMPHANT LOVE WILL WELCOME
THOSE WHO HAD BEEN LAST AND LEAST.
THERE NO MORE WILL ENVY BIND US
NOR WILL PRIDE OUR PEACE DESTROY,
AS WE JOIN WITH THOSE AROUND US
TO PARTAKE IN HEAVEN'S JOY.

-COMMUNION-

"Beach Spring" – arr. E. Carlson

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

"Lord, Feed Your Children"

Chris Prichard

-OFFERING-

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

"Ding Dong Merrily on High"

Brenda Gardiner

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Daniel Beasley

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

"Show a Little Bit of Love and Kindness"

Timmy Smallwood

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

"Gospel Songs Medley"

Timmy Smallwood & Kenny Bishop

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Bind Us Together"

BIND US TOGETHER, LORD,

BIND US TOGETHER

WITH CORDS THAT CANNOT BE BROKEN.

BIND US TOGETHER, LORD,

BIND US TOGETHER, BIND US TOGETHER WITH LOVE.