



**February 2, 2025  
Sunday Gathering**

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**-PRELUDE-**

*"He Leadeth Me" – arr. C. Callahan  
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  
PM 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.

**-COMMUNAL PRAYER-**

Creator God,  
Our collective hearts are filled with anxiety and fear.  
And sometimes, God, This makes us feel alone.  
Remind us that you are with us.

Draw us close,  
quiet our minds,  
and calm our hearts.

WE BELIEVE; HELP OUR UNBELIEF.

Compassionate God,  
We cannot understand all the suffering in the world.  
We commit our hearts to you,  
and we listen for your voice.

Draw us close,  
quiet our minds,  
and calm our hearts.

WE BELIEVE; HELP OUR UNBELIEF.

Generous God,  
give us the courage to persistently act in love.  
Teach us to be your gentle hands  
which work for justice and good.

Draw us close,  
quiet our minds,  
and calm our hearts.

WE BELIEVE; HELP OUR UNBELIEF.

Loving Creator,  
in times of turmoil, help us see that love  
and acceptance of others is our path forward.

Draw us close,  
quiet our minds,  
and calm our hearts.

WE BELIEVE; HELP OUR UNBELIEF.

Help us to trust in Love.  
One day at a time.  
One breath at a time.

WE ASK ALL THESE THINGS IN FAITH.  
AMEN.

**-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.

HERE WE WILL TAKE THE WINE AND THE WATER,  
HERE WE WILL TAKE THE BREAD OF NEW BIRTH,  
HERE YOU SHALL CALL YOUR LOVED ONES TOGETHER,  
CALL US ANEW TO BE SALT OF THE EARTH.

GIVE US TO DRINK THE WINE OF COMPASSION,  
GIVE US TO EAT THE BREAD THAT IS YOU;  
NOURISH US WELL, AND TEACH US TO FASHION  
LIVES THAT ARE HOLY AND HEARTS THAT ARE TRUE.

NOT IN THE DARK OF BUILDINGS CONFINING,  
NOT IN SOME HEAVEN, LIGHT YEARS AWAY,  
BUT HERE IN THIS PLACE THE NEW LIGHT IS SHINING,  
NOW IS THE KIN-DOM AND NOW IS THE DAY.

GATHER US IN AND HOLD US FOREVER,  
GATHER US IN AND MAKE US YOUR OWN;  
GATHER US IN, ALL PEOPLES TOGETHER,  
FIRE OF LOVE IN OUR FLESH AND OUR BONE.

#### **-SCRIPTURE-**

Matthew 14: 3-14 (CEB)

*Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother Philip. That's because John told Herod, "It's against the law for you to marry her."*

*Although Herod wanted to kill him, he feared the crowd because they thought John was a prophet. But at Herod's birthday party Herodias' daughter danced in front of the guests and thrilled Herod. Then he swore to give her anything she asked.*

*At her mother's urging, the girl said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a plate." Although the king was upset, because of his solemn pledge and his guests he commanded that they give it to her. Then he had John beheaded in prison. They brought his head on a plate and gave it to the young woman, and she brought it to her mother. But John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus what had happened.*

*When Jesus heard about John, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed him on foot from the cities. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick.*

#### **-THE MESSAGE-**

*"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*

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-**

*"Prayer"* – arr. S. Wilson

**-OFFERING-**

**-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-**

**-ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

**-INVITATION TO RESPOND-**

**-SINGING TOGETHER-**

*"We Are Called"*

COME! LIVE IN THE LIGHT!  
SHINE WITH THE JOY AND THE LOVE OF THE LORD!  
WE ARE CALLED TO BE LIGHT FOR KIN-DOM,  
TO LIVE IN THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF GOD.

WE ARE CALLED TO ACT WITH JUSTICE,  
WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE TENDERLY,  
WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER,  
TO WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD!

COME! OPEN YOUR HEART!  
SHOW YOUR MERCY TO ALL THOSE IN FEAR!  
WE ARE CALLED TO BE HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS  
SO ALL HATRED AND BLINDNESS WILL BE NO MORE!

WE ARE CALLED TO ACT WITH JUSTICE,  
WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE TENDERLY,  
WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER,  
TO WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD!

SING! SING A NEW SONG!  
SING OF THAT GREAT DAY WHEN ALL WILL BE ONE!  
GOD WILL REIGN, AND WE'LL WALK WITH EACH OTHER  
AS LOVED ONES TOGETHER UNITED IN LOVE.

WE ARE CALLED TO ACT WITH JUSTICE,  
WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE TENDERLY,  
WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER,  
TO WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD!

**-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-**

**-SINGING TOGETHER-**

*"We Are Called"*

WE ARE CALLED TO ACT WITH JUSTICE,  
WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE TENDERLY,  
WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER,  
TO WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD!