



July 27, 2025
Sunday Gathering

.....

-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.

-PRELUDE-

"Open the Eyes of My Heart" - arr. P. Keveren
Brenda Gardiner

-WELCOME-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Open My Eyes That I May See"
OPEN MY EYES THAT I MAY SEE
GLIMPSES OF TRUTH YOU HAVE FOR ME.
PLACE IN MY HANDS THE WONDERFUL KEY
THAT SHALL UNCLASP AND SET ME FREE.

SILENTLY NOW I WAIT FOR YOU,
READY, MY GOD, YOUR WILL TO DO.
OPEN MY EYES, ILLUMINE ME,
SPIRIT DIVINE!

-BEING PURVEYORS OF AWE-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, LORD.
OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART.
I WANT TO SEE YOU,
I WANT TO SEE YOU.

-OPENING DEVOTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Open My Eyes That I May See"
SILENTLY NOW I WAIT FOR YOU,
READY, MY GOD, YOUR WILL TO DO.
OPEN MY EYES, ILLUMINE ME,
SPIRIT DIVINE!

-COMMUNITY PRAYER-

Awe-inspiring God,
we come together this day because we need to be reminded
to see through the lens of connection.
It's too easy to have everything we need without seeking out
relationship or connection to other human beings.
OPEN US TO PERCEIVE ANEW.
INSPIRE US TO RECEIVE OUR SURROUNDINGS WITH AWE.
Forgive us when we hold back unnecessarily
from wholehearted participation and dedication to eradicating loneliness.
BE WITH US ON THIS JOURNEY
AS WE SEEK AGAIN TO MARVEL AT YOUR WORKS.

We know that you never sever the connection we have with you... ever.
We are forgiven, embraced, and enlivened.
With awe, we accept this belovedness.
Together we say,
AMEN.

-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 PLACE 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 OUR 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.

NOT IN THE DARK OF BUILDINGS CONFINING,
NOT IN SOME HEAVEN, LIGHT YEARS AWAY,
HERE IN THIS PLACE THE NEW LIGHT IS SHINING,
NOW IS THE MOMENT 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-

An excerpt from Psalm 149

Alleluia!

Sing to God a new song! Sing praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let God's people be glad in their Maker; let God's children rejoice in their God. Let them praise God's name with festive dance; let them sing praise with timbrel and harp. For God loves the people and crowns the lowly with salvation.

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

"I've Come to Sing a Song About Hope"

Lisa Loeffler

-THE MESSAGE-

"Connection"

Kenny Bishop

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Great and Awesome God"

YOU ARE A GREAT AND AWESOME GOD.
YOUR WONDERS WE PROCLAIM.
YOU ARE OUR ROCK, OUR STRENGTH, OUR SHIELD,
FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME.
YOU FORGIVE US ALL OUR SINS.
YOU TRANSFORM US WITH YOUR LOVE.

WITH JOYFUL, GRATEFUL HEARTS WE SING.
YOU ARE A GREAT AND AWESOME GOD!

-JOYS & CONCERNS-

-PASTORAL PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Great and Awesome God"

YOU HEAR US WHEN WE PRAY.
YOU RECEIVE US WITH YOUR LOVE.
WITH JOYFUL, GRATEFUL HEARTS WE SING.
YOU ARE A GREAT AND AWESOME GOD!

-INVITATION TO COMMUNION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Come to the Table of Grace"

COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE,
COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE,
THIS IS GOD'S TABLE, IT'S NOT YOURS OR MINE,
COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE.

COME TO THE TABLE OF LOVE,
COME TO THE TABLE OF LOVE,
THIS IS GOD'S TABLE, IT'S NOT YOURS OR MINE,
COME TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

COME TO THE TABLE OF HOPE,
COME TO THE TABLE OF HOPE,
THIS IS GOD'S TABLE, IT'S NOT YOURS OR MINE,
COME TO THE TABLE OF HOPE.

COME TO THE TABLE OF JOY,
COME TO THE TABLE OF JOY,
THIS IS GOD'S TABLE, IT'S NOT YOURS OR MINE,
COME TO THE TABLE OF JOY.

-IN GRATITUDE-

-OFFERING-

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"God Made from One Blood"

GOD MADE FROM ONE BLOOD ALL THE FAMILIES OF EARTH,
THE CIRCLES OF NURTURE THAT RAISE US FROM BIRTH,
COMPANIONS WHO JOIN US TO WORK THROUGH EACH STAGE
OF CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH AND ADULTHOOD AND AGE.

WE TURN TO YOU, GOD, WITH OUR THANKS AND OUR TEARS
FOR ALL OF THE FRIENDS WE HAVE KNOWN THROUGH THE YEARS,
THE INTIMATE NETWORKS ON WHOM WE DEPEND
OF PARENTS AND PARTNERS AND SIBLINGS AND FRIENDS.

HELP FAMILIES IN ALL OF THEIR VARIOUS FORMS
TO FACE WITH INTEGRITY STRUGGLES AND STORMS;
GRANT PEACE TO OUR HOMES THAT WILL NURTURE THE BUD
OF PEACE FOR THE FAMILIES YOU'VE MADE FROM ONE BLOOD.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART, LORD.
OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART.
I WANT TO SEE YOU,
I WANT TO SEE YOU.