



**August 25, 2024
Sunday Gathering**

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-PRELUDE-

*"Help Us Accept Each Other" – Kaan/Beck
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-

"All Are Welcome"

LET US BUILD A HOUSE WHERE LOVE CAN DWELL
AND ALL CAN SAFELY LIVE,
A PLACE WHERE SAINTS AND CHILDREN TELL
HOW HEARTS LEARN TO FORGIVE.
BUILT OF HOPES AND DREAMS AND VISIONS,
ROCK OF FAITH AND VAULT OF GRACE,
HERE THE LOVE OF CHRIST SHALL END DIVISIONS;
ALL ARE WELCOME, ALL ARE WELCOME,
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

-WELCOME-

-GREETING EACH OTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"All Are Welcome"

LET US BUILD A HOUSE WHERE HANDS WILL REACH
BEYOND THE WOOD AND STONE
TO HEAL AND STRENGTHEN, SERVE AND TEACH,
AND LIVE THE LOVE THEY'VE KNOWN.
HERE THE OUTCAST AND THE STRANGER
BEAR THE IMAGE OF GOD'S FACE;
LET US BRING AN END TO FEAR AND DANGER:
ALL ARE WELCOME, ALL ARE WELCOME,
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

As we gather today, let us remember the One who meets us in our brokenness,
who knows our faults and loves us nonetheless.

In John 8: 1-11, we see Jesus faced with a woman condemned by the law.
Instead of judgment, He offers her grace.

WE COME TODAY, AWARE OF OUR NEED FOR THAT SAME GRACE.
LET US OPEN OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE IT AND EXTEND IT TO OTHERS.

God calls us to lay down our stones of judgment and to take up stones of compassion.
Let us remember that we, too, are in need of forgiveness.

LORD, TEACH US TO LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOU.
HELP US TO SEE OTHERS AS YOU SEE THEM, WITH COMPASSION AND GRACE.

As we worship today, let this be a time of transformation.
May God's kindness lead us to choose love,
and may that love triumph over judgment in our hearts and in our community.
WE COME READY TO WORSHIP, READY TO RECEIVE,
AND READY TO SHARE THE GRACE WE HAVE FOUND IN CHRIST.

-OPENING PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER
AS CHRIST ACCEPTED US;
TEACH US AS CARING SIBLINGS,
EACH PERSON TO EMBRACE.
BE PRESENT, LORD, AMONG US
AND BRING US TO BELIEVE
WE ARE OURSELVES ACCEPTED,
AND MEANT TO LOVE AND LIVE.

TEACH US, O LORD, YOUR LESSONS,
AS IN OUR DAILY LIFE
WE STRUGGLE TO BE HUMAN
AND SEARCH FOR HOPE AND FAITH.
TEACH US TO CARE FOR PEOPLE,
FOR ALL, NOT JUST FOR SOME,
TO LOVE THEM AS WE FIND THEM,
OR AS THEY MAY BECOME.

LET YOUR ACCEPTANCE CHANGE US,
SO THAT WE MAY BE MOVED
IN LIVING SITUATIONS
TO DO THE TRUTH IN LOVE;
TO PRACTICE YOUR ACCEPTANCE
UNTIL WE KNOW BY HEART
THE TABLE OF FORGIVENESS,
AND LAUGHTER'S HEALING ART.

LORD, FOR TODAY'S ENCOUNTERS
WITH ALL WHO ARE IN NEED,
WHO HUNGER FOR ACCEPTANCE,
FOR JUSTICE, AND FOR BREAD,
WE NEED NEW EYES FOR SEEING,
NEW HANDS FOR HOLDING ON;
RENEW US WITH YOUR SPIRIT;
LORD, FREE US, MAKE US ONE!

-SCRIPTURE-

John 8: 1-11 (CEB)

And Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he returned to the temple. All the people gathered around him, and he sat down and taught them. The legal experts and Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery. Placing her in the center of the group, they said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone women like this. What do you say?" They said this to test him, because they wanted a reason to bring an accusation against him.

Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground with his finger.

They continued to question him, so he stood up and replied, "Whoever hasn't sinned should throw the first stone." Bending down again, he wrote on the ground. Those who heard him went away, one by one, beginning with the elders. Finally, only Jesus and the woman were left in the middle of the crowd.

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Is there no one to condemn you?"

She said, "No one, sir."

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, don't sin anymore."

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

"The Love of God"

Kenny Bishop

-THE MESSAGE-

"The Stones of Compassion"

Elder Daniel Beasley

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"For Everyone Born"

FOR EVERYONE BORN,
A PLACE AT THE TABLE,
FOR EVERYONE BORN,
CLEAN WATER AND BREAD,
A SHELTER, A SPACE,
A SAFE PLACE FOR GROWING,
FOR EVERYONE BORN,
A STAR OVERHEAD,

AND GOD WILL DELIGHT
WHEN WE ARE CREATOR OF JUSTICE
AND JOY, COMPASSION AND PEACE:
YES, GOD WILL DELIGHT
WHEN WE ARE CREATORS OF JUSTICE,
JUSTICE AND JOY!

-SHARING AROUND THE TABLE-

-COMMUNION-

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" - S. Temple

-OFFERING-

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"When the Waves Are Crashing"

WHEN THE WAVES ARE CRASHING
AND MY FAITH IS DROWNING,
THOUGH I MAY FORGET YOU,
HOLD ME, LORD.

WHEN THE CLIFFS ARE STEEPEST
AND MY HOPE IS WEAKEST,
THOUGH I FAIL TO TRUST YOU,
HOLD ME, LORD.

WHEN DARK CLOUDS HAVE GATHERED
AND MY LOVE IS BATTERED,
THOUGH I MAY DESERT YOU,
HOLD ME, LORD.
FAITH MAY BE ETERNAL,
HOPE WILL LAST FOREVER;
GREATER STILL IS LOVE THAT
HOLDS ME, LORD.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"When the Waves Are Crashing"

FAITH MAY BE ETERNAL,
HOPE WILL LAST FOREVER;
GREATER STILL IS LOVE THAT
HOLDS ME, LORD.