



June 9, 2024
Sunday Gathering

-PRELUDE-

"Christ, Be Our Light" – arr. M. Hayes
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-

-GREETING EACH OTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Welcome"

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 come to you, O God, to thank you for what is good;
WE COME TO YOU, O GOD, TO CRY OUT FOR WHAT IS WRONG.

We come to you, O God, to ask for help and restoration;
WE COME TO YOU, O GOD, WITH ACHING HEARTS AND GLAD SOULS.

We come to you, O God, believing in your love;
WE COME TOGETHER, O GOD, TO FIND SOLACE
AND CONSOLATION IN THAT LOVE.

-OPENING PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

COME, O FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING;
TUNE OUR HEARTS TO SING YOUR GRACE;
STREAMS OF MERCY, NEVER CEASING,
CALL FOR SONGS OF LOUDEST PRAISE.
TEACH US SOME MELODIOUS SONNET,
SUNG BY FLAMING TONGUES ABOVE;
PRAISE THE MOUNT! WE'RE FIXED UPON IT,
MOUNT OF GOD'S UNCHANGING LOVE!

HERE WE RAISE OUR HEARTS UP TO YOU;
IT IS BY YOUR HELP WE'VE COME;
YOU PROVIDE A LOVE WE FIND TRUE
AND THAT LOVE WILL BRING US HOME.
YOUR LOVE SOUGHT US WHEN A STRANGER,
WANDERING FROM YOUR LOVING FOLD;
EVEN IN A WORLD OF DANGER,
WE WOULD STILL YOUR LOVE BEHOLD.

COME, O FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING;
MAY OUR SINGING NEVER CEASE.
MAY WE ALWAYS LIFT OUR VOICES
SINGING MELODIES OF PEACE.
DRAW US EVER NEARER TO YOU
SO WE'LL KNOW WHERE 'ER IT'S OF.
MAY OUR SONG BE EVERMORE TRUE,
MAY IT BE OF YOUR GREAT LOVE.

-SCRIPTURE-

Genesis 3: 1-11 (CEB)

The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say that you shouldn't eat from any tree in the garden?"

The woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the garden's trees but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, 'Don't eat from it, and don't touch it, or you will die.'"

The snake said to the woman, "You won't die! God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

During that day's cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God in the middle of the garden's trees. The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

The man replied, "I heard your sound in the garden; I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself."

[God] said, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree, which I commanded you not to eat?"

-SPECIAL MUSIC-

“Sheltered in the Arms of God”
Kenny Bishop & TimmySmallwood

-THE MESSAGE-

“A Bad God”
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.

-SHARING AROUND THE TABLE-

-COMMUNION-

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” – H. Lemmel

-OFFERING-

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” – arr. S. Eithun

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-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.

GOD, WE SING FOR ALL THE CHILDREN,
THAT ONE DAY THEY BE FREE;
AND WE SING FOR GENERATIONS YET TO BE,
THAT THEY NEVER HAVE A REASON
TO DOUBT THAT THEY ARE BLESSED.
MAY THEY, IN YOUR LOVE, FIND REST.

GOD, WE PRAY FOR ALL THE YOUNG LIVES
CUT SHORT BY FEAR AND SHAME
SO AFRAID OF WHO THEY ARE AND WHOM THEY LOVE.
MAY THE MESSAGE NOW BE BANISHED
THAT YOUR LOVE IS FOR THE FEW,
MAY THEIR FAITH IN YOU RENEW.

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.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-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.