



**October 8, 2023
Sunday Gathering**

-PRELUDE-

*"Amazing Grace" - arr. S. Eithun
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-

"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.

-WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-GREETING EACH OTHER-

-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.

*** -CALL TO WORSHIP-**

Come, all who thirst,
COME TO THE WATER!

You who long for the water of life,
COME AND DRINK!

Dip your soul in the river of God's goodness;
QUENCH YOUR THIRST AT GOD'S WELL OF GRACE.

For God is here among us,
OFFERING LIVING WATER TO ALL WHO WOULD DRINK!

Let's worship God together!

**** -OPENING PRAYER-**

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Stand By Me"

WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE ARE RAGING,
STAND BY ME;

WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE ARE RAGING,
STAND BY ME.

WHEN THE WORLD IS TOSSING ME
LIKE A SHIP UPON THE SEA,
GOD WHO RULES THE WIND AND WATER,
STAND BY ME.

IN THE MIDST OF FAULTS AND FAILURES,
STAND BY ME;

IN THE MIDST OF FAULTS AND FAILURES,
STAND BY ME.

WHEN I'VE DONE THE BEST I CAN,
AND MY FRIENDS MISUNDERSTAND,
GOD WHO KNOWS ALL ABOUT ME,
STAND BY ME.

WHEN I'M GROWING OLD AND FEEBLE,
STAND BY ME;
WHEN I'M GROWING OLD AND FEEBLE,
STAND BY ME.
WHEN MY LIFE BECOMES A BURDEN,
AND I'M NEARING CHILLY JORDAN,
O, MY LILY OF THE VALLEY,
STAND BY ME.

-SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT IN THIS PLACE;
LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
SEND US LOVE, SEND US POW'R, SEND US GRACE.

-PASTORAL PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
SEND US LOVE, SEND US POW'R, SEND US GRACE.

-SCRIPTURE-

Exodus 17: 106 (CEV)

The Israelites left the desert and moved from one place to another each time the Lord ordered them to. Once they camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink. The people started complaining to Moses, "Give us some water!"

Moses replied, "Why are you complaining to me and trying to put the LORD to the test?"

But the people were thirsty and kept on complaining, "Moses, did you bring us out of Egypt just to let us and our families and our animals die of thirst?"

Then Moses prayed to the LORD, "What am I going to do with these people? They are about to stone me to death!"

The LORD answered, "Take some of the leaders with you and go ahead of the rest of the people. Also, take along the walking stick with which you struck the Nile River. When you get to the rock at Mount Sinai I will be there with you. Strike the rock with the stick, and water will pour out for the people to drink." Moses did this while the leaders watched.

-THE MESSAGE-

"It Isn't Supposed to be Like This!"

Pam Lee-Miller

-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.

-COMMUNION-

"Be Still and Know" - arr. S. Wilson

-OFFERING-

"Bind Us Together" - arr. M. Hayes

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Rain Down"

RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE ON YOUR PEOPLE.
RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE, GOD OF LIFE.

FAITHFUL AND TRUE IS THE WORD OF OUR GOD.
ALL OF GOD'S WORKS ARE SO WORTHY OF TRUST.
GOD'S MERCY FALLS ON THE JUST AND THE RIGHT;
FULL OF GOD'S LOVE IS THE EARTH.

RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE ON YOUR PEOPLE.
RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE, GOD OF LIFE.

WE WHO REVERE AND FIND HOPE IN OUR GOD
LIVE IN THE KINDNESS AND JOY OF GOD'S WING.
GOD WILL PROTECT US FROM DARKNESS AND DEATH;
GOD WILL NOT LEAVE US TO STARVE.

RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE ON YOUR PEOPLE.
RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE, GOD OF LIFE.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Rain Down"

RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE ON YOUR PEOPLE.

RAIN DOWN, RAIN DOWN,
RAIN DOWN YOUR LOVE, GOD OF LIFE.

* Call to Worship: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/call-to-worship-september-25-2011.html>

** Opening Prayer: ~ <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/god-provides-in-the-desert> ADAPTED