



September 17, 2023
Sunday Gathering

.....
-PRELUDE-

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" – 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-

We are walking in the light of God;
THANK YOU, GOD, FOR YOUR WONDERFUL LIGHT!

We are singing in the light of God;
THANK YOU, GOD, FOR THE GLORIOUS SONG!

We are dancing in the light of God;
THANK YOU, GOD, FOR THE HAPPINESS AND THE JOY!

-OPENING PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

IN THE MIDST OF NEW DIMENSIONS,
IN THE FACE OF CHANGING WAYS,
WHO WILL LEAD THE PILGRIM PEOPLES
WANDERING IN THEIR SEPARATE WAYS?

GOD OF RAINBOW, FIERY PILLAR,
LEADING WHERE THE EAGLES SOAR,
WE YOUR PEOPLE, OURS THE JOURNEY
NOW AND EVER, NOW AND EVER,
NOW AND EVERMORE.

THROUGH THE FLOOD OF STARVING PEOPLE,
WARRING FACTIONS AND DESPAIR,
WHO WILL LIFT THE OLIVE BRANCHES?
WHO WILL LIGHT THE FLAME OF CARE?

GOD OF RAINBOW, FIERY PILLAR,
LEADING WHERE THE EAGLES SOAR,
WE YOUR PEOPLE, OURS THE JOURNEY
NOW AND EVER, NOW AND EVER,
NOW AND EVERMORE.

AS WE STAND A WORLD DIVIDED
BY OUR OWN SELF-SEEKING SCHEMES,
GRANT THAT WE, YOUR GLOBAL VILLAGE,
MIGHT ENVISION WIDER DREAMS.

GOD OF RAINBOW, FIERY PILLAR,
LEADING WHERE THE EAGLES SOAR,
WE YOUR PEOPLE, OURS THE JOURNEY
NOW AND EVER, NOW AND EVER,
NOW AND EVERMORE.

-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-

John 3: 1-10 (CEB)

¹ *There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. ² He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him."*

³ *Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it's not possible to see God's kingdom."*

⁴ *Nicodemus asked, "How is it possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be born, isn't it?"*

⁵ *Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' ⁸ God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

⁹ *Nicodemus said, "How are these things possible?"*

¹⁰ *Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things?"*

-THE MESSAGE-

"What We Know"

Kenny Bishop

-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-

"As We Gather At Your Table" - arr. E. Carlson

-OFFERING-

"It Is Well With My Soul" - arr. P. Hamm

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"We Are Walking in the Light of God"

WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD,
WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.
WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD,
WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.
WE ARE WALKING , WE ARE WALKING ,
WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.
WE ARE WALKING , WE ARE WALKING ,
WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.

WE ARE SINGING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD,
WE ARE SINGING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.
WE ARE SINGING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD,
WE ARE SINGING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.
WE ARE SINGING, WE ARE SINGING,
WE ARE SINGING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.
WE ARE SINGING, WE ARE SINGING,
WE ARE SINGING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.

WE ARE DANCING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD,
WE ARE DANCING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.

WE ARE DANCING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD,
WE ARE DANCING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.
WE ARE DANCING, WE ARE DANCING,
WE ARE DANCING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.
WE ARE DANCING, WE ARE DANCING,
WE ARE DANCING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"We Are Walking in the Light of God".

WE ARE WALKING , WE ARE WALKING ,
WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.
WE ARE WALKING , WE ARE WALKING ,
WE ARE WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD.