



**September 3, 2023**  
**Sunday Gathering**

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**-PRELUDE-**

*"We Are Standing on Holy Ground" – 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-**

*"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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

**-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-**

God has called us;  
WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO USE OUR HANDS  
IN DEEDS OF SERVICE TO OTHERS.  
God has called us;  
WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO USE OUR FEET TO WALK ALONGSIDE THOSE  
WHO NEED COMFORT AND CARE.  
God has called us;  
WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO USE OUR VOICES  
TO DEFEND THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MISTREATED AND MISUNDERSTOOD.  
God has called us.

**-OPENING PRAYER-**

**-SINGING TOGETHER-**

*"Holy, Holy, Holy!"*  
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!  
LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!  
EARLY IN THE MORNING  
OUR SONG SHALL RISE TO THEE;  
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!  
MERCIFUL AND MIGHTY!  
GOD IN THREE PERSONS, BLESSED TRINITY!

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!  
ALL THE SAINTS ADORE THEE,  
CASTING DOWN THEIR GOLDEN CROWNS  
AROUND THE GLASSY SEA;  
CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM,  
FALLING DOWN BEFORE THEE,  
WHICH WAS AND IS AND EVERMORE SHALL BE.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!  
THOUGH THE DARKNESS HIDE THEE,  
THOUGH THE EYES OF HUMANKIND  
THY GLORY MAY NOT SEE;

YOU, OH GOD, ARE HOLY,  
THERE IS NONE BESIDE THEE,  
PERFECT IN POW'R, IN LOVE, AND PURITY.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!  
LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!  
ALL THY WORKS SHALL PRAISE THY NAME,  
IN EARTH AND SKY AND SEA;  
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!  
MERCIFUL AND MIGHTY!  
GOD IN THREE PERSONS, BLESSED TRINITY!

**-SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS-**

**-SINGING TOGETHER-**

*"Listen"*

LISTEN TO THE SONG OF THE WIND.  
LISTEN TO THE HOPE OF THE POOR.  
LISTEN TO THE KNOCK AT THE DOOR.  
LISTEN, GOD IS SINGING,  
GOD IS SINGING.

**-PASTORAL PRAYER-**

**-SINGING TOGETHER-**

*"Listen"*

LISTEN TO THE DREAMS IN THE NIGHT.  
LISTEN TO THE CRY TO BE WHOLE.  
LISTEN TO THE SIGH OF THE SOUL.  
LISTEN, GOD IS SINGING,  
GOD IS SINGING.

**-SCRIPTURE-**

Exodus 3: 1-15 (CEB)

*Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. The Lord's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.*

*When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"*

*Moses said, "I'm here."*

*Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground," He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.*

*Then the Lord said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live.*

*Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."*

*But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"*

*God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."*

*But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"*

*God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me."*

**-THE MESSAGE-**

*"Mission Impossible"*

Elder Deb Core

**-SPECIAL MUSIC-**

*"Go Down Moses"*

Daniel Beasley & Brenda Gardiner

**-SINGING TOGETHER-**

*"Surely the Presence"*

SURELY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE,

I CAN FEEL GOD'S MIGHTY POWER

AND GOD'S GRACE.

I CAN HEAR THE BRUSH OF ANGEL'S WINGS,

I SEE GLORY ON EACH FACE.

SURELY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE.

**-COMMUNION-**

*"Surely the Presence" - L. Wolfe*

**-OFFERING-**

*"When the Poor Ones" - Olivar/Manzano*

**-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-**

**-INVITATION TO RESPOND-**

**-SINGING TOGETHER-**

*"This is Holy Ground"*

THIS IS HOLY GROUND,  
WE'RE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND.  
FOR OUR GOD IS PRESENT  
AND WHERE GOD IS IS HOLY.  
THIS IS HOLY GROUND,  
WE'RE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND.  
FOR OUR GOD IS PRESENT  
AND WHERE GOD IS IS HOLY.

THESE ARE HOLY HANDS,  
WE'RE LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS.  
FOR OUR GOD HAS MADE THEM  
AND WHAT GOD MAKES IS HOLY.  
THESE ARE HOLY HANDS,  
WE'RE LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS.  
FOR OUR GOD HAS MADE THEM  
AND WHAT GOD MAKES IS HOLY.

THIS IS HOLY GROUND,  
WE'RE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND.  
FOR OUR GOD IS PRESENT  
AND WHERE GOD IS HOLY.  
THIS IS HOLY GROUND,  
WE'RE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND.  
FOR OUR GOD IS PRESENT  
AND WHERE GOD IS HOLY.

**-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-**

**-SINGING TOGETHER-**

*"This is Holy Ground"*

THESE ARE HOLY HANDS,  
GOD'S GIVEN US HOLY HANDS.  
FOR OUR GOD HAS MADE THEM  
TO DO WHAT'S GOOD AND HOLY.  
THESE ARE HOLY HANDS,  
GOD'S GIVEN US HOLY HANDS.  
FOR OUR GOD HAS MADE THEM  
TO DO WHAT'S GOOD AND HOLY.