

...*“do not weep, life is paradise, and we are all in paradise,
but we do not know it, and if we did want to know it,
tomorrow there would be paradise the world over.”*

— MARKEL, the elder brother of Father Zosima, from *The Brothers Karamazov*

Rainstick (*signals time for worship to begin*)

Welcome

Gathering Music - *Our Worship of God begins with the playing of the Prelude.
We invite you to use this time in silent prayer and preparation.*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Call to Worship by *Bert Marshall*

We have all come today bearing something and lacking something.

Illuminate our path to wholeness, O God.

We have come to pray and not to pray, to listen and not to listen.

Open our ears to the sounds of your voice, O God, and to your silence.

We have come to be fed and to be hungry, to thirst and to be quenched.

Open our minds and bodies to your presence, O God.

We have come to see what cannot be seen, to encounter the incomprehensible.

Open our eyes to your words and wisdom, O God, and your unfathomable wonder.

We have come to worship for reasons known only to us and to you.

***Open our hearts to the reasons behind the reasons,
the thoughts before the thoughts.***

As we bow the head and bend the knee, break the bread and cradle the cup,

Meet us here as we are, O God, and be the light and breath of our becoming.

Opening Hymn*

Open My Eyes, That I May See

CH#586

Responsive Reading*

For a New Beginning

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

***For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.***

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.

***Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.***

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

***Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.***

~ John O'Donohue ~ (To Bless the Space Between Us)

Sung Response*

*In the Lord (sing 3 times)
Songs & Prayers from Taize*

***In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.***

Anthem

Come, All Who Thirst

Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

The Spoken Word

*1 Kings 17.8-16
Mark 12.38-44*

Meditation on the Word

Rev. Bert Marshall

Hymn*

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

CH#606

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering

Sung Response*

Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above you heavenly hosts,
Praise Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Dedication*

The Church at Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*A literal translation from the Aramaic*)

Our Father who is throughout the universe, let your name be set apart. Come your kingdom. Let your desire be, as in the universe, also on the earth. Give us bread for our necessities this day. And free us from our offenses, as also we have freed our offenders. And do not let us enter into temptation, but set us free from error. For belongs to you the kingdom, power, and song, From ages to ages, sealed in faithfulness. *Rocco A. Errico, translator*

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

Hymn*

Come, Share the Lord

CH#408

Passing the Peace of Christ*

Invitation

Prayer from Iona Abbey Worship Book

Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them, ourselves. Amen.

Sacred Story & Consecration

Bread of the Earth, Fruit of the Vine (*sharing the elements*)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you for uniting us at this table in the body of Christ, and for this meal which fills us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth; our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world; our hands which have held this bread and this cup may be active in your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our brother. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

The Church Alive

Closing Hymn*

All Creatures of Our God & King

CH#22

Benediction*

Benediction Response*

Sanctuary

***Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.***

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We are an Open & Affirming and a Just Peace Church