

God Calls Us to Be Present in Worship

Prelude "Go Tell It On the Mountain"
-arr. by Robert W. Thygerson, trad. African-American Spiritual

Welcome

Call to Worship **Psalm 29**
Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings; ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

People: May the Lord give strength to God's people! May the Lord bless the people with peace.

All: Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

Song of Praise "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"
-#408 in the Purple hymnal

Prayer of Confession
Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from brothers and sisters in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, Have mercy upon us, and free us from our sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism that we are free to serve you and each other in the new life given and to live together in grace.

Pardon and the Peace

Welcome and Life of the Church

God Speaks to Us in Scripture

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 42: 1-9
p. 670 in the Old Testament of the pew Bible

Special music "Hallelujah! I Have Found Him" Chancel Choir

New Testament Reading Acts 10:34-43
p.129 in the New Testament of the pew Bible

Blessing of the Children

Gospel Lesson Matthew 3: 1-7
Sermon "Preparing to Proclaim"

God Calls for a Response

***Hymn of Response** "I Come with Joy" (vv. 1, 2, & 3)
#515 in the Purple hymnal

The Offering

Offertory "Hark, the Glad Sound!"
-by Stewart Landon

Doxology
Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Breaking of the Bread