

A tree gives glory to God first of all by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be, it is imitating an idea which is in God and which is not distinct from the essence of God.
Thomas Merton, New Seeds of Contemplation

** Please stand in body and/or spirit as you are able*

LET US GATHER

PRELUDE *Prelude on "Canterbury"* S.Scott

WELCOME to ALL!

*No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *In God Alone* Taizé

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice, for God is among us!

All: Give thanks, for in Christ we are a new people!

One: In word, in action, in prayer – in all things, we are God's own people.

All: Let us praise the God of all Creation!

LET US PREPARE

***HYMN** *Heaven and Earth, and Sea and Air* B566

UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

Gather us together into your own heart, O God ~ and open us to whatever your word, your hope, your promise is for us this day. You know all that we carry with us this morning: all that fills our hearts and our minds, all that draws us closer to you, and all that distracts us and keeps us from experiencing the grace you long for us to know. Help us to be fully present now ~ to you and to one another ~ as a community of faith, gathered in love and empowered as your beloved

people. We ask all this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray together, saying, "Our Father....Amen."

LET US LISTEN

READING *Matthew 8:5-13*

HYMN *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* B547

REFLECTION *The Beauty in the Ordinary*

ANTHEM *Be True and Faithful* F.Mendelssohn

You are invited into a moment of silence for personal reflection.

LET US RESPOND

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Joys and Concerns *Medima*

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying; Send us love, send us peace, send us grace.

L: Let the people say ...

P: Amen and Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *To A Wild Rose* E.MacDowell

***DOXOLOGY** B781 (tune: B780 L.Bourgeois 1551)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION

How good you are, loving God, and how abundant your gifts to us. Bless these gifts we bring to you now: gifts of our hands and of our hearts. Bless our church and the ministry we share here, bless and multiply it, make it a sign of your love in our day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

