

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: People of God, the Merciful One already knows everything we confess. By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness, we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another. Let's bring before God what we have done wrong and what we've failed to do, trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven...(Moment of silence for personal, private confession to God)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: God of abundant goodness,

All people: we have hurt those we love, those far from us, ourselves, and your creation by what we do and by what we neglect. We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures and refuse to enjoy what you give. We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship plague our neighbors. We ignore the gift of your presence in times both tragic and triumphant. Forgive us for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. Pour out on us the joy of your presence and heal what we have harmed. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends, receive these joyful words: You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins. You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child. You are released to live out God's love in a world that needs joy.

All people: Amen.

PRAISE HYMN

Gloria Patri

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #35

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

Amazing Grace

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #546

HEBREW READING

Numbers 21:4-9

PSALTAR READING

Psalm 197:1-3, 17-22

Liturgist: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

All people: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Liturgist: Some were sick through their sinful ways and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

All people: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and were saved from their distress; The LORD sent out his word and healed them and delivered them from destruction.

Liturgist: Let them thank the LORD for steadfast love, for the wonderful works to humankind.

All people: And let us offer thanksgiving sacrifices and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

GOSPEL READING

John 3:14-21

SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Good News (Leaf)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: God has given us all that is good and right and true. What a joy to share these gifts in the life of this community and far beyond our own reach. With a prayer of gratitude and joyful eagerness, let us return to God an offering and a re-commitment of our time, talent, and money.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

OFFERING RESPONSE

Accept, O God, the Gifts

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #379