

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: In today's Gospel reading, we will witness Jesus overturning tables in the temple - not because worship was happening - but because *belonging* had been distorted. When access to God becomes conditional, when systems burden the vulnerable, when prayer becomes performance, we are invited to examine our hearts. Let us confess not in fear, but in trust that covenant mercy still holds.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: Covenant God, you declare your house to be a house of prayer for all peoples, yet we confess that we often draw boundaries where you have drawn welcome. We participate in systems that burden others. We confuse comfort with peace and quiet with justice. Forgive us when access to belonging becomes entangled with status, wealth, or fear. Overturn in us what should not be there. Release what has been caged. Free us from indifference. Shape our anger by love, and our love by courage, that we may reflect your mercy with integrity and grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Hear the good news: The same Christ who overturned tables also healed the blind and the lame in the temple courts. His righteous anger did not end in destruction; it made space for restoration. In Christ, the house of worship is not closed. Belonging is not revoked. Covenant is renewed.

All people: Thanks be to God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Blue Hymnal #35

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

ANTHEM

Christ Be Our Light (Farrell)

Chancel Choir

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 56:6-8

HYMN

O Christ, the Healer

Blue Hymnal, #503

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:12-16

DIALOGUE SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker & Mr. Kevin Crone

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: In the temple courts, monetary contributions once dictated access. Within Christ's kingdom, generosity serves as an invitation. We do not give in order to secure our place; rather, we give because we are already included. As we present our offerings today, may these gifts foster mercy, safeguard those at risk, and uphold this house as a place of prayer for all people. You are invited to stand, as you are able, for the dedication of our gifts through song and prayer.

DOXOLOGY

We Give Thee (Verse 1)

Blue Hymnal #382

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Liturgist: Please join me in dedicating our gifts with a prayer.

All people: Covenant God, Receive these gifts. Use them to open doors, loosen burdens, and make safe space where room is needed. May what we offer participate in your promise that no one stands outside your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.