

PREWORSHIP MUSIC & PRELUDE

Mr. Cody Eckenrode

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pastor: We gather here in anticipation,
seeking an encounter with our Holy God,
who comes among us when we least expect it,
who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts,
who richly blesses us,
and calls us each by name.
Let's worship God together!

HYMN

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*²

Hymnal, #476

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: In the midst of struggles, God is present. In times of grief, times of weariness, and times of tragedy, God weeps with us. When we fail to be the people, we know we should, when we sin, God's grace envelops us. God beckons us to live within God's unfolding realm of love. In a moment of silence, let us each confess those things with which we are wrestling, then we will confess together. (Moment of Silent, Personal Confession)

Let us now, confess together in one voice.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

All: O God who draws near, our world is filled with struggles. Sometimes we make the wrong choice. Sometimes we have regrets and sometimes we know we would be tempted and do it again. Release us from repeating our mistakes. Though we wrestle with life and with you, please forgive us. Amen,

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God wrestles with you freely. God chooses relationship despite your mistakes and failures. God forgives you and dreams of the day when you live into the image of God in which you are created. The Good News is that no matter what, you are God's beloved. What great peace this provides us! Share the Good News, therefore, with those around you, saying: You are God's Beloved. Peace!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

HYMN

*What a Friend, We Have in Jesus*⁴

Hymnal, #472

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Genesis 32:1-32

Mrs. Peg Gingerich

NEW TESTAMENT READING – Matthew 14:13-21

STUDY SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura C. Baker

¹ <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/call-to-worship-genesis-32.html>

² Robinson, Robert. Public Domain.

³ Graves, Tim. Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace: *Release Us from Repetition*. Posted on September 16, 2019. Adapted by Pastor Laura Baker on May 2, 2022. <https://liturgybits.com/2019/09/16/release-us-from-repetition/>

⁴ Schriener, Joseph. Public Domain.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: *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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY INVITATION⁵

Liturgist: In this next moment, we have an opportunity to respond in openness to all we've been given. We are going to pause for a short period and during that time, I invite you to imagine yourself, placing your financial gifts in the offering plate, but also — and more importantly — imagine placing your hand over it and silently committing to God to use your gifts, talents, and heart for furthering the unfolding realm of God on earth. (*Moment of silence for personal commitment*)

Please join me in offering ourselves and the gifts of our time, talent, and money to God's Kingdom work, using the Prayer of Dedication as printed in our bulletins.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION⁶

All: *God, bless our wallets, because they participate in our expressions of our faith in you. Bless our envelopes, our checks, our cards, our dollar bills, and our coins - because they might be called into your kingdom. If we have barely two pennies to put in the offering plate, or if we make multiple automatic withdrawal donations each month, no matter who we are and what we have, you welcome our gifts. Be in our sharing, our saving, and our spending, and multiply each gift. We give in the name of Jesus Christ, who multiplied the loaves and fish so that everyone had more than their fill. Amen.*

HYMN

*Count Your Blessings*⁷

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BENEDICTION

Pastor: Know that the ever-present mystery we name God
is in your past forgiving you,
is in your present loving you,
and is in your future waiting to greet you.

All: *We leave this place as beloved children of God.
Each one - upheld by God and filled with the Spirit.
God holds our hands.
God keeps our hearts.
We go in peace to love and serve in Jesus' name.
Amen.*

SUNG BENEDICTION

Father, Bless Us as We Part (Sing 2 times)

Hymnal, #510

*Father, bless us as we part; grant us peace that makes us free.
Strengthen every trusting heart, with the love that comes from Thee.
Amen.*

POSTLUDE

⁵ Graves, Tim. Offering Invitation: *In the midst of struggles*. Posted on December 5, 2016. Adapted by Pastor Laura Baker on May 2, 2022. <https://liturgybits.com/2016/12/05/in-the-midst-of-struggles/>

⁶ <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/offering-prayer-matthew-1413-21.html>

⁷ Oatman, Johnson. Public Domain.

Count Your Blessings

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Th. 5:18
Blessed be... God... who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings... in Christ. Eph. 1:3

1. When up - on life's bil - lows you are tem - pest - tossed, When you are dis -
2. Are you ev - er bur - dened with a load of care? Does the cross seem
3. When you look at oth - ers with their lands and gold, Think that Christ has
4. So, a - mid the con - flict wheth - er great or small, Do not be dis -

cour - aged, think - ing all is lost, Count your man - y bless - ings, name them
heav - y you are called to bear? Count your man - y bless - ings, eve - ry
prom - ised you His wealth un - told; Count your man - y bless - ings—mon - ey
cour - aged, God is o - ver all; Count your man - y bless - ings, an - gels

one by one, And it will sur - prise you what the Lord hath done.
doubt will fly, And you will keep sing - ing as the days go by.
can - not buy Your re - ward in heav - en, nor your home on high.
will at - tend, Help and com - fort give you to your jour - ney's end.

Refrain

Count your bless - ings, name them one by one, Count your
Count your man - y bless - ings, Count your man - y

bless - ings, see what God hath done! Count your bless - ings,
bless - ings, Count your man - y bless - ings,

rit. name them one by one, *a tempo* Count your man - y bless - ings, see what God hath done.

WORDS: Johnson Oatman, Jr., pub. 1897. MUSIC: "Blessings"; Edwin O. Excell, 1897.