

ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERING

WELCOME

PROCLAMATION

Leader: Breathe in and know that God is in this space. (candle is lit).

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Please join us in a call to worship.

PEOPLE: Breathe on me, breath of God.

READER: We acknowledge the journey that has brought us here, a journey of struggle and of grace. Your spirit has been ever-present, just as we have strived to be present with one another. Let us feel that presence in this moment.

PEOPLE: Breathe on me, breath of God.

READER: We have sought to understand, as well as to be understood. You have given us strength to be honest with ourselves and one another. Continue to uplift us with a spirit of clarity and kindness.

PEOPLE: Breathe on me, breath of God.

READER: We give thanks for your gift of discernment and pray for your continued grace in the choices we make together in the future. We give thanks for those whom we agree and disagree with, for your grace extends to each one of us. Fill us with that grace anew.

PEOPLE: Breathe on me, breath of God.

READER: We step forward in faith and are reminded that you, the Great Shepherd, will be with each of us wherever our journey leads, as you have always been. Let us rest in the assurance of your everlasting love.

***PEOPLE:* Breathe on me, breath of God. Amen.**

OPENING SONG

INVITATION TO GIVE TO GOD (Hand Meditation)

READER: Curl your hand into a fist.

Think about all the moments of stress that you've experienced during this process;

the times you felt unheard or hurt by the statements of others;

the things that have frustrated you;

Those things that make your stomach feel tight;

those things that you are still worrying about.

Imagine that you hold all this in your fist.

(Pause and reflect)

Now, slowly open your hand.

Release to God

The stresses of this process of discernment;

the people or things who have hurt you or frustrated you.

Notice the relaxing of your hand, the unclenching of your stomach.

Let your shoulders drop and feel the untightening of your brow.

Release the worries and the unheard or unspoken words.

Feel the sensation of release and the presence of the Holy.

“For I am the Lord your God

who takes hold of your right hand

and says to you, ‘Do not fear;

I will help you.’” (Isaiah 41:13 NIV)

SUNG RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please share as you feel comfortable.

“What are you releasing to God in prayer today?

I am releasing to God: _____.”

PRAYER

LEADER: Holy God, we come before you today releasing our joys and concerns.

We know you see and hear all of our prayers, even the silent ones yet on our hearts. We thank you for your presence alongside us on this journey we’ve been on together, and with excitement and apprehension we await the new paths that will branch out in front of us. We ask that you continue to bless us with wisdom and understanding as we move forward. Thank you for hearing our prayers today, and every day.

PEOPLE: Amen.

MESSAGE Lectio Divina: Ezekiel 37:1-10

Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-10 NRSV

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSE (Psalm 31:24)

Note: The middle section of this collective response offers an opportunity for individual voices to be lifted. You are invited, to reflect on and write out your responses. After a few minutes, our readers will begin with a reading of Psalm 31, after which we will share out some of our responses in a spirit of prayer.

READER(s): The Lord

Wait for the Lord

All you who wait for the Lord

Take courage, all you who wait for the Lord

Let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord

The people respond:

God speaks to those who are: _____.

God works through those who are: _____.

God is revealed (in/through): _____.

God gives us courage when we are: _____.

READER(s): Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord

Let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord

Take courage, all you who wait for the Lord

All you who wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord

The Lord

CLOSING SONG

BENEDICTION

(Candles extinguished.)

God has called us to move forward together through a time of uncertainty. We have gathered together, laughed together, felt frustrated together, and have made a decision together. God called us as a community, and as a community we have responded. The transition of endings is sometimes hard. It is inevitable that things will end, but the Holy Spirit is still in the midst.

MUSIC AS PEOPLE EXIT