

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

We are from north, south, east, and west.

We are from tiny apartments and expansive houses.

We have always lived here, and we've just moved in.

We are from big families and dinners made for one.

We are from stages of grief and stages of love.

We are from the dust of the earth and the stars of the sky.

We are from many rivers, but from One Source.

Today we are together. Holy God, you gather us in.

Special Music "Deep River/Shall We Gather at the River" Scott & Stuart Clausen
African American spiritual and Robert Lowry, arr. Lloyd Larson

We Come as Children

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,

We don't always know how to pray, **but you find us anyway.**

We don't always know how to listen, **but you are in our ears all the same.**

We don't always know how to believe,

but you surround us with beauty and hold us together in love.

We step into this space from a world where there are so many distractions.

We enter this space fleeing a cacophony of demands.

Find us. Embrace us. Help us hear your voice in these words of scripture. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading Genesis 2:4b-15 The Inclusive Bible

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that goodness can come from the dirt,
that faith can come from doubt, that minds can be changed,
and that holy justice can continue with us,**

We believe all these things,

**because we believe that God is more expansive than we have words for—
showing up in the corners of our world so often ignored and denied.**

**We believe that from this place of holy surprise,
God invites us forward—beckoning hope, bravery,
and curiosity from each of us.**

"Come and see," God says.

We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

Hymn #23 Tune from hymn #81

Invitation to Reconciliation

Prayer of Reconciliation

When people heard that Jesus was from Nazareth, they asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

We confess, God of beginnings, that we have asked the same question.

Can anything good come from that side of town?

From a school with poor test scores?

From a criminal history?

From the opposite political party?

From a history of addiction?

From a faith with doubt?

From a church with faults?

Holy God, forgive us for doubting that you are with all things at all times.

Open our eyes to see your goodness, as the expansive grace that it is.

Can anything good come from there?

Yes. Always yes. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

...So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God is here. God is at work among us.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for love like that. Amen.

Our Response to Grace #448

"Peace of God Be with You"

Invitation and Dedication of Offering

Offertory "God of the Deep," Berry and Forrest; solo-Scott Clausen

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Sending Hymn/Charge #745 "Now Go in Joy"

Benediction

Postlude