

## UNITE IN LOVE

### Welcome

### Prelude

### Call to Worship

One: God loves the field mouse.

**ALL: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.**

One: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

**ALL: God loves the child who rocks and claps.**

One: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

**ALL: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.**

One: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**ALL: God loves the trees standing strong over all of us.**

One: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

**ALL: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.**

### Gathering Hymn #20

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

### Invitation to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

One: God said, “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them.”

**ALL: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

One: Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

**ALL: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.**

One: God said, “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.”

**ALL: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

One: Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them.”

**ALL: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.**

### Quiet Reflection

### Assurance of Grace

One: Fortunately for all of us, God also said,  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.”

**ALL: By God’s grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,  
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

**Response to Grace #544**

“Bless the Lord”

1x

**GROW IN FAITH**

**Time for Wonder**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading**

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

One: The word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 19:13-15

One: The word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection on the Word**

*The Good News is Protection and Care for the Vulnerable*

**Hymn**

“See the Precious Children”  
Tune: BEACH SPRING (#716)

words: Anna Strickland

See the precious children seated on the lap of Christ our Lord  
Called the greatest in the kingdom held so gently and adored  
They are precious in the sight of God who made each tiny toe  
In their weakness they’re held by love as each day they learn and grow

See the precious widowed women gleaning harvests from the field  
Then returning to their kitchen to prepare their daily meal  
They are precious in the sight of God who holds their broken hearts  
In their sorrow they’re held by love that redeems each fragile part

See the precious foreign strangers as they carry all they own  
To a land that’s full of dangers for the powerless and prone  
They are precious in the sight of God who made their homeland, too  
In their journey they’re held by love as each day they start anew

See the precious dispossessed ones asking for some food to eat  
Sleeping under starry heavens, daily living on the streets  
They are precious in the sight of God who loves them as a child  
In their hunger they’re held by love as they guard their human pride

See the precious world impoverished by our malice and our greed

Humans, animals, and planet crying out for some relief  
We're all precious in the sight of God who made each holy thing  
In our living we're held by love as we care for every being

### **Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **Offering Invitation & Dedication**

**Doxology 607** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

### **Our Life Together**

- Next Sunday: The Good News Is...Rooted in Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness

**\*Sending Hymn #203** "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

### **\*Blessing and Charge**

### **Passing the Peace**

One: May the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Share signs of God's peace with one another.

### **Postlude**