



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday,
May 7, 2023
10:00 AM

**Fifth Sunday of
Easter**

**156TH Anniversary
Sunday**





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Masks and distance recommended, not required

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel

"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. Available wherever you get your podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. Text your gift to [844-977-2346](tel:844-977-2346)

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

Use PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/display?hosted_curl=stpeteruccskokie)

Send a Check. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Set up Vanco. Contact the church office to enroll in regular giving



Open Communion

All Christians and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

Website: www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!



8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 10:00am
Fifth Sunday of Easter
St. Peter's UCC 156th Anniversary Sunday

Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.

PRELUDE "Old 100th" arr. Callahan

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Beth Lanford

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP *Using Psalm 100*

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

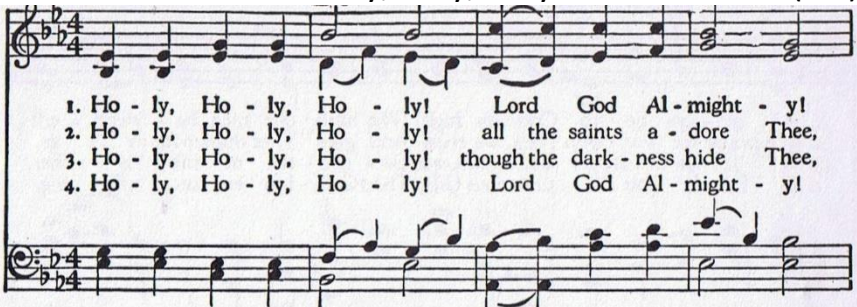
P: Upon our church turning 156, let us know that the Lord is God. It is the Eternal One who made us and we are the Sovereign's.

C: Since 1867, this church has been among God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture. Let us enter God's gates with thanksgiving then, and his courts with praise!

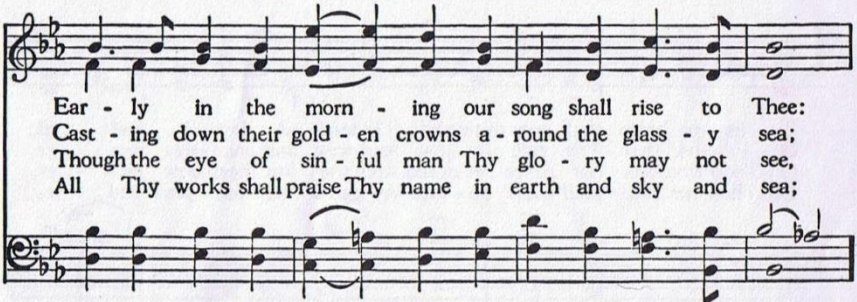
RESPONSE

"Holy, Holy, Holy!"

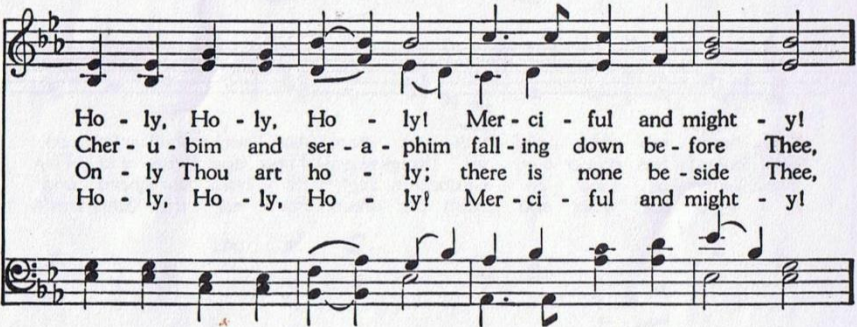
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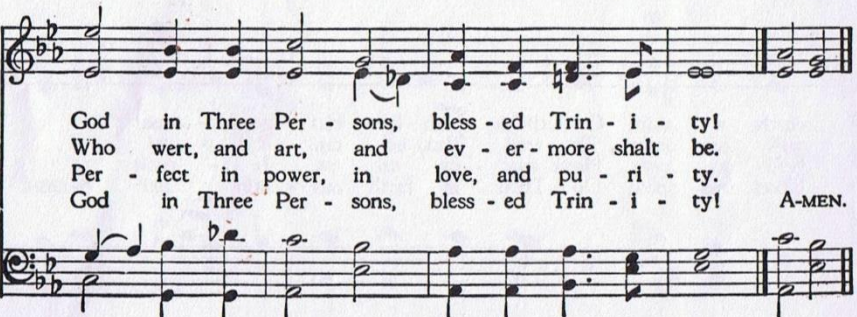
1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
 3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,
 4. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
 God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A-MEN.

CALL TO CONFESSION

- P: We know we are not holy like God is holy, even though God calls us to be so, both as individual believers, and as communities of the faithful.
- C: We know we have departed from God's will for our lives in many ways. It's easy to forget that God's call on our lives is not just for a little while on Sunday mornings.**
- P: This is true for this church, its history, and for you and me. So, after taking time to read the prayer of confession silently to ourselves, let us confess aloud together ways we have fallen short.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- A: On this Anniversary Sunday, prayers of confession can come hard, as life has been hard in a lot of ways. Yet we as individuals and as St. Peter's, even while doing what we think is all we can do, still admit to sins of omission. We could have stood up for unarmed victims of brutality and gun violence. We could have shared our faith more. We could have engaged with those working to non-violently heal the centuries-long effects of racism, and join those trying to bring truth to confront the circulating lies about Christianity. We could have been attentive and responsive to attacks upon persons in the LGBTQ + community. We could have prayed more for this country, our leaders, the least of these wherever they are, and for our church.**

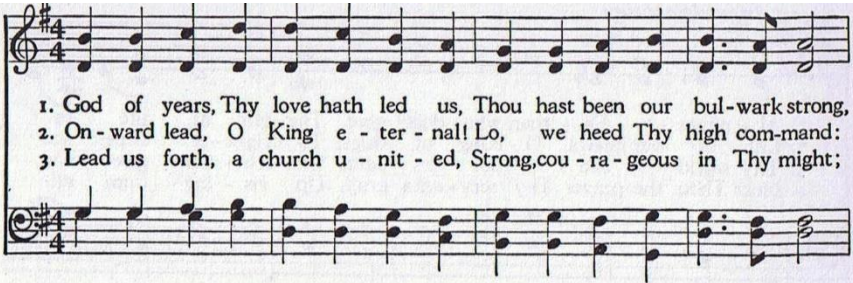
Forgive us, and St. Peter's U.C.C. these, and any other ways we have grieved Your Holy Spirit! Create in us new hearts, after Yours; for it is in the name of Jesus Christ we humbly pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

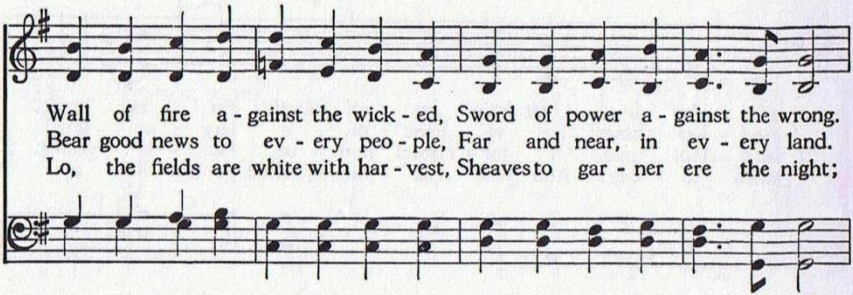
P: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all . . . while we wait for . . . the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds" (*Titus 2:11, 13-14*).

By the love of God we know in Christ Jesus, we are freed from the things which hold us back from God, and God prepares us for doing works of justice, faith, love and truth. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!

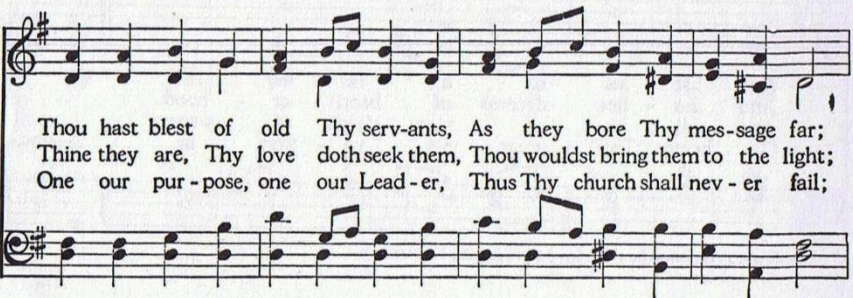
HYMN "God of Years, Thy Love Hath Led Us" #362



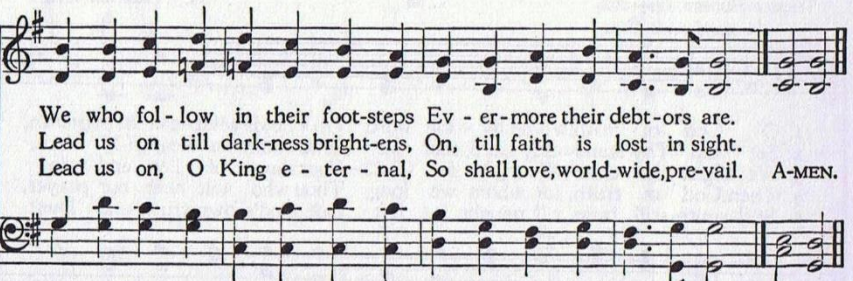
1. God of years, Thy love hath led us, Thou hast been our bul-wark strong,
 2. On-ward lead, O King e - ter - nal! Lo, we heed Thy high com-mand:
 3. Lead us forth, a church u - nit - ed, Strong, cou - ra - geous in Thy might;



Wall of fire a - gainst the wick - ed, Sword of power a - gainst the wrong.
 Bear good news to ev - ery peo - ple, Far and near, in ev - ery land.
 Lo, the fields are white with har - vest, Sheaves to gar - ner ere the night;



Thou hast blest of old Thy serv-ants, As they bore Thy mes-sage far;
 Thine they are, Thy love doth seek them, Thou wouldst bring them to the light;
 One our pur - pose, one our Lead - er, Thus Thy church shall nev - er fail;



We who fol - low in their foot-steps Ev - er-more their debt-ors are.
 Lead us on till dark-ness bright-ens, On, till faith is lost in sight.
 Lead us on, O King e - ter - nal, So shall love, world-wide, pre-vail. A-MEN.

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Olivia Altmayer

The Psalter:

Psalm 103

Gospel:

Matthew 6:1-8, 16-21

CHORAL ANTHEM

“From All the Earth Send Up the Song!”

by Robert Weaver

The congregation is asked to rise for this.

AFFIRMATION OF PURPOSE

P: Article III of our Church Constitution states our purpose, or ‘Objective.’ In renewing and re-affirming our objective as St. Peter’s U.C.C., as servants of Christ, as members and active friends of St. Peter’s U.C.C., please join me in saying it aloud together:

A: “This church has as its objective the development and maintenance in this community of a Christian congregation on an evangelical basis, for worship and the promotion of the Christian life, and the furtherance of the Kingdom of God by all available means.” To this objective, to this gospel and to this Triune God we reaffirm and renew our covenant. Thanks be to God! Amen.

GLORIA CREATOR *sung to the traditional tune # 493*

**Glory to our Creator,
And to our Christ and to the Holy Ghost!
As it was in the beginning, is now,
And ever shall be; world without end!
Amen, Amen.**

The congregation may be seated

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

HOMILY

“At 156: In Praise of God and Affirming our Purpose(s)”

The congregation is asked to rise for this.

HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

SSB #2



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Sursum Corda:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them up to the Lord!

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration

RESPOND
153 Eat of This Bread

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 65. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; come and be fed, come now and dine. Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; here all are fed, here all may dine." The chords are: Eb, A-flat, D-dim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, B-flat sus, B-flat, D-dim, Gm, Cm, Fm, B-flat, E-flat.

The Words of Institution

Participation

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**A: 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**

The congregation is asked to rise for this.

HYMN “We Look to You, O Jesus”

Sing to the tune of “The Day of Resurrection”

**We look to you, O Jesus — in faith, our Pioneer —
For you have gone before us and brought your people
here.**

**You showed us all God's kingdom, you gave us work to
do;**

In death you went before us; for life, we turn to you.

**Through times of strife and anguish, through times of
joy and grace,**

**Through conflicts with our culture, you've brought us to
this place;**

**And still your world is changing, and still we seek to be
A church reformed, reforming in faithful ministry.**

Perfecter of the faith, Lord, we look to you each day;

**We work for peace and justice, we worship, learn and
pray —**

And witnesses surround us, a host of saints above,

As we continue sharing the joy of your great love.

*Text: Copyright © 2006 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by permission
as our Pastor owns the book which thereby grants said permission).*

CHARGE

- P: Seek first realm of God and God's righteousness;
 C: As for us and our houses, we shall serve the Lord.
 P: Act with faith, believe with humility,
 C: Love one another and love those whom nobody
 loves,
 All: Serve the Lord!

BENEDICTION *Jude 24, 25*

- P: "Now to the One who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of God's glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time and now and forever." And let the birthday people say . . .
 C: **Amen!**

POSTLUDE

"Lobe den Herren"

arr. Dirkson

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

News in the Pews

You are a royal priesthood, God's own people. Welcome to worship, that we may proclaim the mighty acts of God, who called us into his marvelous light. (Based on 1 Peter 2:9.)

Today as you can tell Saint Peter's United Church of Christ celebrates 156 years of incorporated existence, service and worship in Skokie. When it officially began, we were Saint Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Western Synod of North America in Niles Center, IL. We thank God for everyone who has been a blessed part of our journey over the 15+ decades, and for those we have had the opportunity to minister with and to. Alleluia!

The UNDY 500 is BACK for all of May- new colored underwear in all sizes including plus sizes needed for The Night Ministry to distribute to Chicago's most needy. Collection box will be in the Sanctuary. More details in our May [Announcer](#).

Thanks to Wendy Svenson, Beth Lanford, all crafters and shoppers, bakers for the bake sale and folks who publicized yesterday's "Welcome Spring" Craft Show! There were many helpers behind the scenes, some helping to welcome guests, and we appreciate their important assistance, too.

BUNCO Night! Definitely our "funnest" fundraiser of the year. Join us Saturday, May 20th from 7 to 10PM for BUNCO! Your \$5 donation fee includes a snack bag, desserts and

drinks. We'll have 3 tables full of raffle prizes, something for everyone! All are welcome!

Helpers needed! Next Saturday May 13th at 10AM we need folks to help move rummage from a residence to the church. Please contact Ginger K. or Beth L. if you can help. We'll meet at 1823 N. Basswood Ln., Mt. Prospect, IL.

A Just Harvest is celebrating its 40th anniversary all year, this week with an Open House and Conversation at the site on Paulina this Wednesday evening. At least one of our members is attending!

The Board of Elders has a Zoom meeting on Thursday at 4 PM.

Chicago Rocks and Minerals has a meeting this coming Saturday in the Memorial Room, from 6 to 10 PM.

Next Sunday is Mother's Day.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. If you or someone you know is in crisis, dial 988 for the Suicide and Crisis Hotline. It is a 24-hour line, and it's important to know that persons can, and should, call or text a hotline even if you're not suicidal but are experiencing emotional distress. NAMI has a helpline: 1-800-950-6264 which is not 24 hours but is live M-F from 9 to 9 Central Time. Text 62640.

Our People

BUNCO PRIZES NEEDED! Our Bunco fundraiser will be May 20th and we need lots and lots of brand new prizes to make it a big success!! You can buy something big or something small, we need it all. Talk with Carol Iannotti if you have questions, and prizes can be left in the church office. Thank you!

Village Inn Fundraiser: Our next Village Inn Fundraiser Sunday is May 21st. *This will be the LAST fundraiser day until September (and possibly forever if we don't have a better turnout) so lets make this a good one!*

Birthdays this week belong to former member Laura Medaglia, Maya Lundeen, and Gianna Iannotti. Michael and Mandy (Taheny) McDonald celebrate their wedding anniversary this week, too. Blessings upon them all!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

About Communion: We have pre-filled cups with a wafer or small piece of bread at each entrance to the sanctuary, for worshipers to take with them into the church. If you are at home joining us on-line, please have ready a piece of bread of some kind, and a symbolic beverage of your choice, and partake of those as Pastor prompts us during the sacrament to take and eat, take and drink.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Let us know you were here! Please fill out the black pew pads when you arrive and pass them to the center aisle during the service. Thank you!

Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry! There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home! Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. Thank you!

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us! Pastor's weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday's scriptures and sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

John 14:1-14

Enduring Witness

A communion liturgy based on John 14, NRSV.

Leader: Jesus said, "Believe in God, believe also in me."

People: And the people said, "How can we know The Way?"

Leader: And Jesus said, "I am the Way. And the truth. And the light."

People: And the people said, "Show us, and we will be satisfied."

Leader: And Jesus said, "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. And so since you have asked, today I will show you one of the ways that I will always be here with you."

People: And so Jesus took the bread, and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "I am the Way and the truth and the life."

Leader: If you know me, you will know my Abba God also. And I will show you, so you remember. Take this bread. This bread is

just like my body, whenever you eat it and remember all that unites you, I am with you.”

People: And after supper, Jesus took the cup and poured it out sharing it with them. And again he told them. “I am the Way and the truth and the life.”

Leader: Then he said “In my Abba’s house there are many rooms. And I will show you, so you remember. This is the cup of forgiveness, which is as vast as my Abba’s house in heaven. This cup is grace, poured out abundantly on all and for all.”

People: Then Jesus said, “I go and prepare a place for you, so that where I am, there you will be also.”

Leader: This is Christ’s table and all are welcome here. Come from the East and the West, from the North and the South to gather at this feast for forgiveness and unity.

Psalm 103

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God will not always accuse, nor will God keep divine anger forever.

God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,

so far God removes our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children,

so the LORD has compassion for those who fear the Lord.

For God knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who
fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

to those who keep God's covenant and remember to do the commandments.
The LORD has established God's throne in the heavens,
and God's kingdom rules over all.

Bless the LORD, O you his angels,

you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.
Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.
Bless the LORD, all God's works, in all places of God's dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Matthew 6:1-8, 16-21

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen
by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the
hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by
others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms
may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to
stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen

by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”