

The Gathering
Services of Worship
February 2-5, 2011

OPENING GATHERING – WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (3:00—5:00 P.M.)

GATHERING MUSIC (starting at 2:45 p.m.?)

WELCOMING REMARKS – Event chair/president (5 mins)

CALL TO WORSHIP – *Leader at lectern, four readers moving from four directions toward the font in the center of the room bringing water to pour into the font.*

Leader: *This is the day the Lord has made;*

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: *In this gathering we are called to leave our usual day-to-day activities to encounter God and one another in new ways.*

East: As the sun rises in the East so we rise to this new occasion, to allow time for our inner light to be rekindled, stoked, fanned into a brightly burning flame.

North: As the North wind blows so we turn to feel the winds of the Spirit blow through us, in us and among us.

South: We come from the South to share in the warmth of Christ's love and the hospitality of the community of believers.

West: With a spirit of adventure and an open mind to new ideas we draw closer to this time of worship, sharing, learning and playing.

Leader: *Come, from wherever you have been. Come together at font and table. Come as Christ's guests, as God's children, as the Spirit's unmolded clay.*

All: We are here, Holy Creator of the Universe; we are yours.

OPENING SONG

CALL TO CONFESSION

As redeemed but fractured children we lift our hearts before the transcendent parent who loves us, asking for forgiveness and seeking reconciliation. Give to God that which separates you from receiving grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. Name it now, then let it go.

["Kyrie Eleison" here]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Begin with silent prayer)

Leader: *A sacrifice acceptable to you, O God, is a broken and contrite heart. It is with such that we dare to approach you asking for mercy.*

South: You have called us to be as living sacrifices for you but we prefer that you sacrifice for us.

East: You created us in your image, but we prefer to see you in our image.

West: You continually show us mercy but we fail to do the same for our fellow human beings.

North: Forgive us, gracious God, and once again grant us reconciliation with you and with all of your creation.

Leader: *In mind, body, and soul, may we be the people you created us to be.*

All: We pray in the name of Christ, God-embodied, Immanuel. Amen.

[“Kyrie Eleison” here]

ASSURANCE

Friends, be assured! Forgiven by God, redeemed by Christ, washed by the Spirit, we are fully cleansed and made whole and we are poised to receive all the great things that God has in store for us. Let us celebrate and awesome goodness of the Triune God!

SONG OF RESPONSE

PASSING THE PEACE

OFFERING OUR LIVES

Creative/Interactive Activity at Tables

5 min to create, 1 minute to share a creation that represents the person offering him/herself to God and the community

SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION – Rick Ufford-Chase

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2

Title: All In - Becoming a Living Sacrifice

PRAYER

O God of the high heavens, O Christ of the deep earth, O Spirit of the flowing waters, O Trinity of Love, you have offered your love to us, and here we pledge our love to you. Strengthen us in our desire, and breathe into our bodies the passion of your love.

CLOSING SONG

THURSDAY MORNING – (8:30 – 10:00 A.M.)

PRELUDE

GATHERING LITURGY -- 3 VOICES

1 Grace to you!
 2 Grace!
 3 Grace and Peace from God and from our Lord Jesus Christ!
 1 Do not be conformed! (Romans 12)
 2 I say again - Do not be conformed!
 3 Be transformed!
 1 Transformed – by the renewing of your minds
 2 That’s right – discerning God’s will – what is good and acceptable and perfect
 3 Now is the moment to awake (Romans 13)
 1 Awake!
 2 Awake!
 3 For the moment to sleep is past – the night is gone – and the day is near
 1 So when you come together to eat – wait (1st Cor. 11)
 2 Wait! Practice the hospitality of sisters and brothers
 3 Wait, and put one another first
 1 You are all needed by God! (1st Cor, 12)
 2 Yes, you are all needed, for the spiritual gifts God gives are varied
 3 We are one body – each needed - Jew and Greek,
 1 Churched and unchurched
 2 with documents or without, male or female, gay and straight
 3 our baptism makes those old boundaries meaningless
 1 We are one body now.
 2 So pursue love – and strive for spiritual gifts (1st Cor. 14)
 3 Pursue love – and seek to build one another up in the body
 1 After all – this is our time! (2 Cor 6)
 2 Our time – the day of salvation
 3 We strive to be the church that endures suffering
 1 beatings
 2 Hardships
 1 imprisonments
 2 hunger – these are the things that measure our mettle as followers of Jesus, and we
 will stand firm
 3 We will stand firm
 1 In all things – we will stand firm
 2 Giving in great measure (2 Cor 8)
 3 Giving – in great measure
 1 Giving – that our wealth might not persist in the face of others’ need
 2 A fair balance
 3 A fair balance
 1 That’s right – a church that embodies a fair balance for all of God’s people

2 So make my joy complete (Philippians 2)
 3 Look not to your own interests
 1 Care about others – just as Christ gave his life for you
 2 And be the kind of church that will make my joy complete
 3 No bickering or silliness – but instead . . .
 1 Hold fast
 2 Hold fast
 3 Hold fast – and press on for what lies ahead (Phil 3)
 1 God’s vision is so close
 2 Forget what’s past – and look toward the promise
 3 Be gentle – show me what you’re made of
 1 Be gentle – and I promise you – peace will come
 2 And be gracious – and wise (Colossians 4)
 1 Embrace your differences – a gift from God!
 2 Be at Peace among yourselves (1 Thes 5)
 3 Call out the slackers
 1 Encourage those who are struggling to keep the faith
 2 Honor one another
 3 Honor all people – men and women and children
 1 And remember
 2 Remember
 3 Be a church of grace
 1 and of peace
 2 honoring in one another the best of who God has called us to be
 3 Amen
 1 Amen
 2 Amen

OPENING SONG

SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION: Rick Ufford-Chase

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2

Title: Engaging Culture - Saying Yes and Saying No

ACTIVITY

Creating “Engaging Culture” liturgies/creeds at tables

Create common confession and call to action – each person writes a sentence on repentance, and one on who God calls us to be.

PRAYER

We are praying, oh we are praying;

We are praying, oh we are praying.

We are man, woman, we are children and oh, we are praying.

So let the rains go, let the healing river flow, let justice roll like waters.

And let the day begin when new life enters in and let your kingdom come.

We are hungry...

We are homeless...
 We are marching...
 We are singing, etc....

Words and music: Ben Johnston-Krase

CLOSING SONG

FRIDAY MORNING DEVOTION -- (8:00-9:40 A.M.)

PRELUDE

GATHERING LITURGY

In the silence of these moments let us draw near to God.

(a time of silent centering)

Holy One, speak to us words of wisdom.

We are listening, Lord.

Holy One, Speak to us words of challenge

We are ready, Lord.

Holy One, speak to us words of hope.

We are needy, Lord.

Holy One, speak to us words of love.

We are eager, Lord.

Holy One, speak to us in our silence and in the noise of our lives.

Draw us into you, that we may hear your still, small voice and heed your word.

OPENING MUSIC – primary table – bring elements forward

SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION: Rick Ufford-Chase

Scripture: Romans 12.1-2

Title: Responding to God - A Community Transformed

ACTIVITY/SACRAMENT

Communion (serving each other at tables)

Sung “Prayer of Great Thanksgiving”

We Lift Our Hearts

A Musical Setting of the Great Thanksgiving

Tune: FOREST GREEN (CMD)

Text: © 2009 David Gambrell

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE (This invitation was not used in the service)

Sung by the presider.

From north and south, from east and west,
 O faithful people, come,
 to share the feast that Christ prepares,
 where heav'n and earth are one.
 Come, all who hunger, all who thirst;
 with confidence, draw near,
 for Jesus Christ, the bread of life
 is truly present here.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The first half of each stanza can be sung by the presider,
 with the congregation completing the stanza, singing the bold print.*

- (1) We lift our hearts, O Lord our God,
 with thanks and praise to you.
 Creator of the universe,
 your love makes all things new.

**“Most holy, holy, holy Lord!”
 the heavenly choirs proclaim.
 How blessed is the one who comes
 in your exalted name.**

- (2) We thank you for your Word made flesh,
 our Savior, Jesus Christ,
 whose dying has destroyed our death,
 whose rising gives us life.

**With grateful hearts we offer you
 this sacrifice of praise,
 remembering your faithfulness,
 rejoicing in your grace.**

- (3) Pour out your Spirit now, to bless
 these gifts of bread and wine,
 and let them be a feast for us,
 your cov'nant seal and sign.

**As Christ is present in this place
 so may we one day be
 united at your table, Lord,
 for all eternity.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mother God, in the breaking of this bread and the sharing of this cup you have made us one – one with you, one with each other, one with all of your creation. Father God, fed by your great love and quenched by your profound grace send us out this day as a people transformed! Spirit God, may we continue to listen for your voice in our conversations and our silence, in our teaching and learning, in our crowdedness and our aloneness. We pray in the powerful name of Christ Jesus! **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

CLOSING WORSHIP – SATURDAY (11:00 A.M.—12:30 P.M.)

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING MUSIC

OPENING PRAYER OF ADORATION

Holy Creator, intimate Parent, we stand in awe of you. You cherish your creation – the earth, air and sea; animals and plant-life, human beings of every race, color and creed – you have called us “good.” With all that we are, in all our diversity and in one accord, we praise you. With gratitude we recall all that you have done for us in the past, all that you are for us today, and all that you have planned for us in the future. We give to you in this moment, in this hour, in this day, in all the days of our lives our worship, thanksgiving and praise. **Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Jesus Christ be with you!
And Also with you!

SONG OF RESPONSE

ANTHEM –

SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION – Rick Ufford-Chase

Scripture: Romans 12.1-2

Title: Living with Gratitude - What is Good, and Acceptable, and Perfect

Activity

anointing one another for the work to come

Small bowls at the tables.

CLOSING PRAYER

SENDING SONG

CHARGE & BLESSING

We have come to this gathering for a time of holy conversations, new and renewing friendships, sacred worship, and spiritual nurture.

We go from this gathering to continue the holy task of participating in God’s on-going genesis in congregations and communities.

As we scatter from this place, to do the ministry to which we are called, let us go in peace.

Let us go in the name of Christ with a message of wholeness and hope to a world fragmented and torn.

Made whole in Christ and walking in balance with God's Spirit ...

Seeing visions of the Beloved Community with ever-new eyes; being vigilant in caring for both the wondering and the wandering...

We are transformed!

Sharing God's transformational Love with all whom we meet...

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ enable us;

May the Love of God inspire us;

May the communion of the Holy Spirit sustain us, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE