

Sunday, May 5, 2024,
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome
Family Life and Work
Family Celebrations
Lighting of the Christ Candle:
Acknowledgment of the Land:

Introit: And on This Path

MV 8

**And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!**

**So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!**

Call to Worship: based on Psalm 98)
Sing a new song to God! God has renewed all things!
All over the earth, God's people join in songs of praise!
Let the oceans shout and the rivers clap their hands!
Let the mountains and the plains rejoice! God is faithful!

Opening Hymn: Let Us Build a House

MV 1

**Let us build a house
Where love can dwell And all can safely live
A place where Saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions**

**All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek**

**To dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness,
And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus**

**All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,
serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger;**

**All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place**

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

**Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and you restore all things in to their first glory through the victory of Jesus Christ.
We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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 trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen**

Children's Time: "Yes, Jesus Loves Me"

First Reading: 1 John 5: 1 - 6

Second reading: John 15: 9 - 17

We Listen

Gradual Hymn: Jesus, Stand among Us

VU 396

- 1 Jesus, stand among us
in your risen power;
let this time of worship
be a hallowed hour.**
- 2 Breathe the Holy Spirit
into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows
from each soul depart.**
- 3 Lead our hearts to wisdom
till our doubting cease,
and to all assembled
speak your word of peace.**

Meditation: "Sing a New Song"

Musical Offering: Soon and Very Soon

We Respond

Offertory: Grant Us, God, the Grace

VU 540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of the People:

Closing Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

VU 333

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

- 2 Breathe, Thy loving, gentle spirit
into every human breast,
Let us all from Thee inherit
Of Thy noble gifts the best.
Now that earth is just beginning
On an upward path we move,
Give to all new hope of winning
laurels that their worth may prove.**

- 3 Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Benedictions and Commissioning:

Go now with hymns of praise for God's overwhelming grace. Sing God's praise in words and in actions. Live out the glory of God!

Amen.

Choral Benediction: May the God of Hope Go with Us

VU 424

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

- 2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R**

**Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**