



~The Gathering~

Prelude

Herr, nun selbst den Wagen halt
Tami Newsom, organ
Music: Helmut Walcha. Public Domain

Walcha

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.
The word of the Lord will not return empty;
it will accomplish all that God intends.
Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn #356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

**Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love!**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.**

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The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Prayer of Confession

Patient and persistent God, we come today, polished and presentable, as if we know what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe. Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Passing of the Peace

~The Word~

Prayer for Illumination

Shirley Greaser

God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Psalm 119

Dr. Angela Batey, cantor

Daw

Your word is a lan - tern to my feet, O
 Lord, and a light up - on my path.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.
 I have sworn and am determined to keep your righteous judgments. **(R)**

I am deeply troubled; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.
 Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, and teach me your judgments. **(R)**

My life is always in my hand, yet I do not forget your law.
 The wicked have set a trap for me, but I have not strayed from your commandments. **(R)**

Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; truly, they are the joy of my heart.
 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes for ever and to the end. **(R)**

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Second Scripture Reading: Genesis 25:19-34

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Siblings and the Grace of God”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~The Response~

Affirmation of Faith – from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

The Anthem

There is a Balm in Gilead

Wagner

Brenda Luggie and Krista Belding, handbell duet

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Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

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 Sending~

Closing Hymn #430

Come Sing, O Church in Joy

Darwall's 148th

**Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

**Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

**Let courage be our friend, let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

**Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!**

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Charge and Benediction

Postlude

King's Weston

Phillips

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