

10:55 ALIVE WORSHIP SERVICE
February 5, 2023

****GOD CALLS US TOGETHER****

CALL TO WORSHIP

A new day to treasure,

Another chance to be healed.

Though we have known problems,

God will see us through.

Though we have been down,

God will lift us up.

Though we have been surrounded by doubts,

God will restore our faith.

This is a new day

To love one another,

To be made whole,

To sing praise to God.

GATHERING SONG

"He Reigns"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous God, faithful Friend, in the depths of our hearts we know that we are linked to you; we know we are most whole when we are centered in your love. Yet with painful awareness, we know how often we stray from our true center. We organize our lives around our need and our greed, forever fretting, often doubting your promise of care. We wall up our compassion and close our eyes to hurt. We end up tense, cautious and defensive.

Generous God, faithful Friend, restore our trust in you. Let us relax into your grace and discover again the joy and power of sharing. Let us know the pleasure of being with others on the journey of faith, who give with glad and joyful hearts. Let our gifts and our lives make a difference in the unfolding of your new community on earth. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SONG

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

****GOD SPEAKS TO US****

THE FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-13

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:13-20

Pastor Emily

A reading from Matthew.

Speak to us Lord for we are listening.

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these

commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Good News of God for all people.

We have heard your Good News.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

“Are You Salty Enough?”

Pastor Emily

SERMON SONG

“My Jesus”

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe God is our shield, who saves the upright in heart.

We believe God has made a new covenant, as promised by his prophet, “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

We believe that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. We believe that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

We believe that, according to the riches of his glory, God will grant that we may be strengthened in our inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord meet us in the silence...**And hear our prayers. Amen.**

****GOD FEEDS US IN A MEAL****

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

Jesus gathered his closest friends and followers for a final meal before his death. We also share in this same meal with the same deep promises. Bread and wine and grape juice, we hear Jesus’ words...

“Do this and remember me.”

Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and blessed it. He broke it, shared it, and gave it away. Then he said:

This is me; this is my body; this is my gift for you and for all.

Then he took the cup of wine. He gave thanks and blessed it. He poured it out, shared it, and gave it away. Then he said:

This is me; this is my lifeblood; this is my gift of love, hope, healing, and forgiveness for all.

In this meal God takes and receives us. God gives thanks for us and blesses us. God then shares us and gives us away. And says:

You are my body, You are my love, my healing, and my grace for the world. Amen.

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 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, forever and ever. Amen.

Come to the table of our Lord.

COMMUNION SONG *"Blessed Assurance"*

****GOD EMPOWERS AND SENDS US****

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *"Trading My Sorrows"*

SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord, and be dangerous!

Thanks be to God!