



### **MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:**

Oh Lord, you claim us and you know us by name. Help us to live as your people who are your lights in the world. Amen.

### **PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:**

- ❖ *The question is not “Is God leading?” but rather “Are we following?”*
- ❖ *What I want is, not to possess a faith, but to have a faith that shall possess me.*  
- Charles Kingsley
- ❖ *God can do great things with our lives, if we but give them to him in sincerity.*  
- Anna R. Brown Lindsay

### **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**One:** We gather together to ask God for blessing in this time and place. We praise God’s holy name! We lift our voices, we humble our hearts and we know again that we are God’s.

**All:** We are God’s people! We sing praises that we are together today as one!

**Praise Song:** *Called, Claimed, Sent (music at end of bulletin)*

### **Our Confession:**

**All:** Creator God, we forget the relationship we have with you. We forget that you make a claim on us. We reverse the roles and make demands on you. We expect you to make our lives easier and our projects successful. We confess that we do not ask often enough for you to give us what we need to fulfill your expectations. We do not ask often enough for you to give us strength for hardships as we seek to live out our witness in the world. We are not wrong to petition you for things we need, but we are wrong to expect you always to make our way smooth. We do not look for the spiritual growth in the roadblocks we face. Forgive us for expecting you to do things our way. Teach us to

**expect hardships and to see your hand in them. Move us to accept the claim you make on us. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

Leader: The God who created us will not abandon us. God is with us in our struggles, including our struggle with sin. God offers mercy to forgive and power to grow. In the name of Jesus the Christ we claim God's grace.

**Confession Response: With Kindness (music at end of bulletin)**

**The Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18 (The Message)**

*This scripture reading suggests an understanding of the Jewish sacrificial system requiring human action to make wrong actions right with God. Here the writer says the human Jesus, identified as Savior, did this for all of humanity through His death destroying both the power of death and the devil.*

Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it's logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death.

It's obvious, of course, that he didn't go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed.

**THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

*Here is an incident in Jesus' early life journey where He is brought to the Jerusalem temple by His parents for the Jewish Rite of Purification. Two older people, Simeon and Anna, see in this event, involving the infant Jesus, a person with a far greater future affecting the life of many others.*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

**MESSAGE: Who are You? – Pastor David Schoob**

**MESSAGE RESPONSE: Take My Life That I May Be** *(music at end of bulletin)*

## **THE PRAYERS**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER:**

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.***

### **THE SENDING OUT:**

Leader: As God has claimed Jesus and you to be beloved, may all you do this week help others to feel beloved by our God.

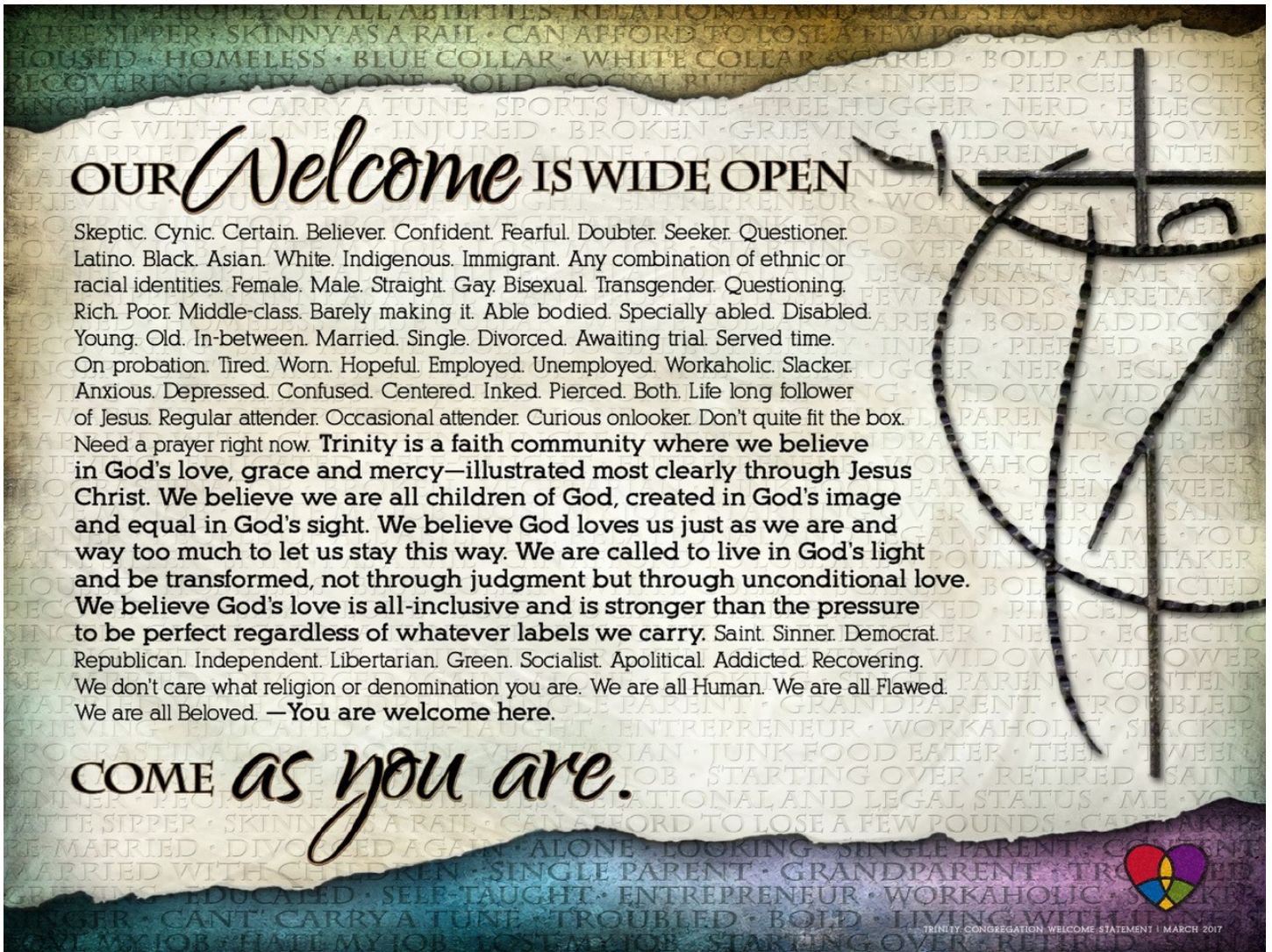
**ALL: Amen.**

**THE SENDING SONG: The Lord Now Send Us Forth** *(music at end of bulletin)*

### **THE DISMISSAL:**

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



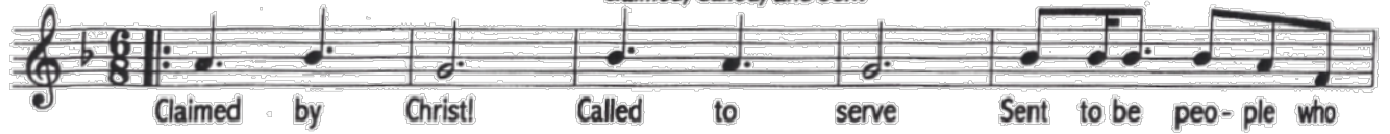
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*Claimed, Called, and Sent*



Claimed by Christ! Called to serve Sent to be peo-ple who



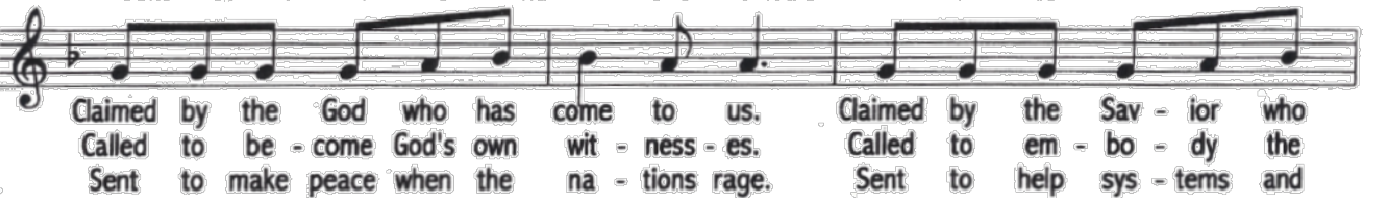
live God's love in this world. We have been  
We have been  
We have been



claimed by the God of the un-i-verse, Source and Cre-a-tor of earth.  
called by the One whom the pro-phets heard, called to pro-claim Yah-weh's Word.  
sent to the wound-ed and to the poor, sent to the neigh-bor next door.



Claimed by the One who has giv-en birth to us all.  
Called to re-ceive what we can-not earn on our own.  
Sent to the seek-er who knows there's more to this life.



Claimed by the God who has come to us. Claimed by the Sav-ior who  
Called to be-come God's own wit-ness-es. Called to em-bo-dy the  
Sent to make peace when the na-tions rage. Sent to help sys-tems and



died for us. Claimed by the One who em-pow-ers us to be-  
Word in flesh. Called to be those through whom God can bless and sow  
struc-tures change. Sent to speak out where in-just-ice reigns and to



come the Church!  
seeds of Grace!  
take a stand!  
world.

With Kindness

Christ has no bod - y here but ours. No hands, no  
feet here on earth but ours. Ours are the eyes through  
which he looks on this world with kind -  
ness. Ours are the hands through which he works.  
Ours are the feet on which he moves. Ours the voic - es  
through which he speaks to this world with kind - ness.  
Through our touch, our smile, our list'-ning ear, em-bod-ied in us,  
Je-sus is liv-ing here. Let us go, now, in - spir - it - ed  
in - to this world with kind - ness.

The musical score is written on ten staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and repeat signs.

ELW 583 Take My Life, That I May Be

Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord  
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;  
 let them flow in cease - less praise.

1. Take my hands and let them move  
 2. Take my sil - ver and let gold,  
 3. Take my voice and let me sing  
 4. Take my will and make it thine;

at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 not a mite - would I with - hold;  
 al - ways, on - ly for long - er  
 it shall be no long - er mine;

take my feet and let them be swift and  
 take my in - tel - lect and them ev - 'ry  
 take my lips, and let them be filled with  
 take my heart, and it is thine own; it shall

beau - ti - ful for thee  
 pow'r as thou shalt choose. (Chorus)  
 mes - sag - es from thee.  
 be thy roy - al throne. (Chorus)

*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth ELW538*

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to  
make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of  
pain to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name; that  
falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help  
us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.