

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

Loving God, give us open hearts, as open and eager as a toddler's first steps. Give us open ears, that we may hear your words fresh and wild, comforting and challenging us. Give us open hands, ready to receive a blessing and willing to offer gentle care. Loving God, show us the depths of your grace in these precious moments and in your holy Word. And then help u us pass on the stories of your love to all who follow. Amen.

## PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

Faith is not something to grasp; it is a state to grow into.

-Mohandas Gandhi (Famous Leader in India)

Christianity is a revealed religion, with a historical tradition. Without a community of faith surrounding us, retelling the stories and traditions again and again, we cannot know Jesus.

-Leonard Sweet (Writer about the changing church)

The Church is always one generation short of extinction, If our generation fails to guard the truth and entrust it to our children, then that will be the end!

 Warren Wiersbe (American Christian clergyman, Bible teacher, conference speaker and prolific writer of Christian literature)

# CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Ever-present God, forever seeking and always teaching:

### All: Open our minds to the truth of your care;

One: Open our hearts to the gentle caress of your love;

# All: Open our lips to share stories of faith;

One: Open our hands to create beauty, do justice and show kindness;

# All: Open our souls to the breath of your Spirit;

One: Let us share your love with all generations.

# PRAISE SONG: I Want to Tell His Story (music at end of bulletin)

### **OUR CONFESSION:**

God of grace, we praise you for the gift of children in our community. We thank you for their energy, enthusiasm and simple wisdom. We confess that we have been slow to learn from them, looking over their heads and ignoring their comments. We have forgotten that faith is more than facts that are repeated back. We have forgotten that faith is a relationship with you and trusting that you listen and care as we go through life. Faith is living joyfully and expectantly with a large measure of patience and forgiveness.

Guide us, O God, in creating a faith community that forgives, loves, heals, trusts, cares. Amen.

### CONFESSION RESPONSE: From Now On (music at end of bulletin)

### *THE READING:* Deuteronomy 6:1-9

In this Old Testament book, these are words of God to His people, Israel, suggesting that it is not fear of but love of God which is most important to Him. This Great Commandment, as some call it, is to be shared with their children. Later Jesus refers to this as the greatest commandment.

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the LORD your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

### THE GOSPEL:

### Luke 18: 15-17

These words of Jesus about children suggest that they are not to be given low status but are even part of God's kingdom, not excluding but including them should be the action.

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'

#### MESSAGE: "Children are not the future of the Church - they are the Church" - Pastor David Schoob

**MESSAGE RESPONSE:** I Love to Tell the Story (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 it is 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: And now may you who are led by the Spirit of God, claim your inheritance as children of God's heavenly kingdom. Rejoice! Our God is with us forever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

#### THE SENDING SONG: Pass It On (music at end of bulletin)

### THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.



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Congregational lyrics in bold type. Song leader lyrics in italics. θ (I'll be with you end of the age.) From now till the on From now θ on (your king - dom come, for this we'll live we'll From and pray) now Fine θ 0 fi - nal day). From now on (we'll work for peace un - til the on... 3 3 3 D 4 God's (God won't near for - sake you.). (giv - ing Christ cares his life for all peo - ple). 3 3 3 4 D ...... God's (and here knows the pains that face you). his 3 that's We share (the love of е ter nal). 1 3 3 . 9 D (called Now we're the to out in world). gо (for Go there he has asked US to fol low). . Teach and 'ry and heal meet need, help the ev the God's Spread word that in land. Spread the our lame to walk and the blind to see. will ways stand. that al mes sage -

From Now On



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Pass It On