

# **MEDITATION PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP:**

Come, sisters and brothers, gather.

Plunge your sorrows and worries into the fountain of life; find healing and comfort.

Place your dreams and hopes on the table of blessing; find strength and hope.

Come, you thirsty and weary, come from hard journeys and busy days and incline your ear to our Sabbath God, who says, come away and rest a while.

Come, you hungry and longing, find here the bread of life, the words of truth, the fellowship of renewal.

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

Everyone who hungers, come to the source.

Come with the excitements and hope.

Come, find delight and new life.

Amen.

# PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ The church is not a select circle of the immaculate, but a home where the outcast may come in. It is not a palace with gate attendants and challenging sentinels along the entrance-ways holding off at arm's-length the stranger, but rather a hospital where the broken-hearted may be healed, and where all the weary and troubled may find rest and take counsel together.
   James H. Aughey
- Churchgoers are like coals in a fire. When they cling together, they keep the flame aglow; when they separate, they die out.
  Billy Graham

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Welcome in,

All: Come on home.

One: Come with your load of troubles, **All: Carry in your bundle of doubts.** 

One: Bring them home

All: To a place of healing,

One: To a community of forgiveness,

All: To this family.

One: Bring them home to God:

All: A God who cares,

One: Who lightens our load, **All: Who gives us rest,** 

One: Who gives us hope for the future, courage for each day, a song for this moment.

PRAISE SONG: Let This Be a Place, Lord (music at end of bulletin)

### **OUR CONFESSION:**

Gracious God, source of wisdom and insight, we know you see us as we are, and we know how often we try to pretend we are something we are not. We put other people down so we can look better. We stretch the truth of our accomplishments and push off to others our failures. We pretend to listen, but constantly seek our own advantage.

Loving and forgiving God, help us not to shrink from your gaze. Give us the courage to put our trust in you. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of loved and forgiven people. Set us free from pride and arrogance and bring us home. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: The Church Song (music at end of bulletin)

### THE READINGS:

# Acts 2:43-47

The Biblical New Testament book of the Acts of the Apostles covers life in the early Christian church after the coming of the Holy Spirit. Here that life among believers in Jerusalem included holding fast to the teaching about Jesus shared by His disciples (here called apostles), being in relationship with each other including sharing what they had, eating together the meal of Jesus (Holy Communion), and praying in their homes and the Temple. Much of that is still true of Christian communities.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

# **Ephesians 2:17-22**

Here the writer to the early Christian community in Ephesus, the capitol of Asia Minor (today Turkey), indicates their life is centered in the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ

Jesus as the cornerstone. Because of that they are no longer strangers and aliens but members of the household of God and His dwelling place. Through the Spirit we can say the same.

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

MESSAGE: "The Church: Are We Safe Here?" - Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: All Are Welcome, vs. 1,2 & 5 (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: Now may the risen Christ be with us as we seek to follow his example: forgiving and not hating, uplifting and not tearing down, serving instead of being served and doing all things to the glory of God the Father. In his precious name, we pray.

ALL: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Build Us Up (music at end of bulletin)

#### THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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#### All Are Welcome ELW 641



