

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought." – **Jeremiah 17:7-8**

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- "Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing." Camille Pissarro
- ✤ "Blessings sometimes show up in unrecognizable disguises." Janette Oke
- "The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but the thankful heart will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings." – Henry Ward Beecher
- The more we express our gratitude to God for our blessings, the more he will bring to our mind other blessings. The more we are aware of to be grateful for, the happier we become." – Ezra Taft Benson
- ✤ "Some people come in our life as blessings. Some come in your life as lessons."

– Mother Teresa

 "God gave you a gift of 84,600 seconds today. Have you used one of them to say thank you?" – William Arthur Ward

CALL TO WORSHIP:

- Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, come.
- People: Renew our worn-out hopes. Restore our forgotten dreams.
- Leader: Come, Prince of Peace, come.
- People: Refashion our commitment to a world where justice and peace embrace.
- Leader: Come, Wonderful Counselor, come.
- People: Rekindle our joy for living and refuel our passion for truth.
- Leader: Come, Giver of Life, come.
- People: Refresh our yearning for you. Replant us in your grace.
- Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

OUR CONFESSION:

All: God of eternal hope, you place a light into every darkness and a star in every sky, and yet we seem to prefer to walk in the darkness of despair and worry. We cover over the light of possibility with a flurry of worry. We walk bent over with care and concern and miss the reach of the stars. We fear the worst and distrust the best. We forge ahead on our own, not noticing your outstretched hand. We forget that there is never a moment that you are not with us. We forget that to every situation your love and power brings a candle of hope, the light of peace and the radiance of joy.

Shine your light on our path and walk with us through all our dark valleys. Shine in the dark caverns of our hearts. Make us radiant with your love that others may see our good works and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE:

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant, vs. 1, 2 & 3 (music at end of bulletin)

THE FIRST LESSON:

Genesis 12:1-5

GOD told Abram: "Leave your country, your family, and your father's home for a land that I will show you.

2-3 I'll make you a great nation and bless you.

I'll make you famous;

you'll be a blessing.

I'll bless those who bless you;

those who curse you I'll curse.

All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you."

4-6 So Abram left just as GOD said, and Lot left with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot with him, along with all the possessions and people they had gotten in Haran, and set out for the land of Canaan and arrived safe and sound.

THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

MESSAGE: "We are blessed to BE a blessing"

- Pastor Cristy Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: Pass It On (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: The One who made you has made you new. Now you are sent out to offer the world the opportunity be made alive through the power of God's Spirit who dwells in you. Go out with, and to BE, the blessing of God Almighty.
- All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Go Now (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Ubuntu. Words and Music by Ken Medema. © Briar Patch Music. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant. Text: Richard Gillard. Music: Richard Gillard, arr. Betty Pulkingham. Text and music © 1977 Scripture in Song, admin. Integrity Music. Used with permission under CCLI License #230769. All rights reserved.

Pass It On. Words and Music: Kurt Kaiser. © 1969 (renewed) Bud John Songs, Inc., admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

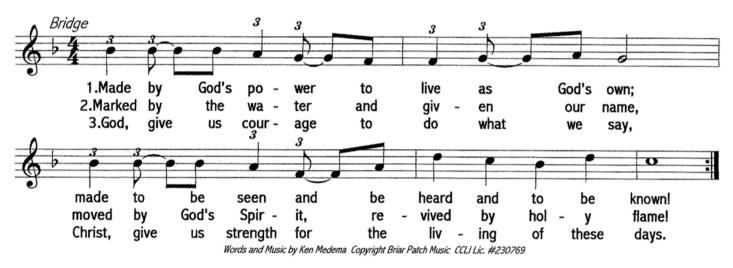
Go Now. Words and Lyrics by Hans Peterson and Larry Olson, © 2006 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.



Verses (echo song leader)

1. ... Sisters and brothers ... made for communion ... bound to each other ... one holy union ... Drawn by a vision ... drawn by desire ... drawn to the circle ... round God's holy fire,

- 2. ... Called now we follow ... Jesus our brother ... Who gathers his children ... just like a mother ... Tenderly holding ... this new creation ... Making and molding ... a new holy nation,
- 3. ... This is our vision ... life's in the sharing ... Holding back nothing ... dreaming and daring, ... To live this communion ... that breaks us and binds us



... Holds us and heals us ... frees us and finds us



