

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ "The way of Jesus cannot be imposed or mapped it requires an active participation in following Jesus as he leads us through sometimes strange and unfamiliar territory, in circumstances that become clear only in the hesitations and questionings, in the pauses and reflections where we engage in prayerful conversation with one another and with him."
 - Eugene H. Peterson, The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways That Jesus Is the Way

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We know we are called to shine with God's light, yet we are looking for direction. Our fragmented lives and self-concern pull at our intentions, unsettling our faith and diluting our commitment.

We want to change, to grow, but where do we begin?

We look to Jesus, how he lived and loved, what he said and what his followers called "the Way."

O Lord, open our eyes, our hearts and our minds as we examine ourselves, our faith, our hope. Guide us, loving God, in the "way" of love and life.

People: Amen.

PRAISE SONG: "I Have Decided" (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

All: Holy God, our companion and guide on life's journey, keep our hearts strong, for we are tempted to satisfy the immediate need and neglect the effort needed for the long haul. We have given into indulging the momentary and popular and given up on hope and your persistent work for good. Forgive us for our halfhearted efforts and our willingness to abandon trust in you.

Give us faith for the long journey, give us patience when the doors seem blocked and grant us hope in the darkest moment. For though your way may seem hidden, you are ever working new resurrections. This we believe because of Jesus. Amen. Leader: The light of God's love that comes in Jesus has set us free from darkness. Let us then live in the light each every day.

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

THE READING:

Isaiah 9:2-4

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 4:17-23

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

MESSAGE: "Which Way Do You Go?"

Pastor Cristy Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: "If I Believe in Jesus" (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS:

P: As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the human family, and all of creation.

(Petitions end: "God of mercy"; "Hear our prayer.")

P. All these things and whatever you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ, who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

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. 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:

One: Lord Jesus, Son of the living God,

All: Teach us to walk in your way more trustfully,

One: To accept your truth more faithfully,

All: And share your life more lovingly.

One: Guide us in our work as the church,

All: So that we may fully be one family.

One: Go, knowing God's grace,

All: Sharing God's peace,

One: Living God's justice,

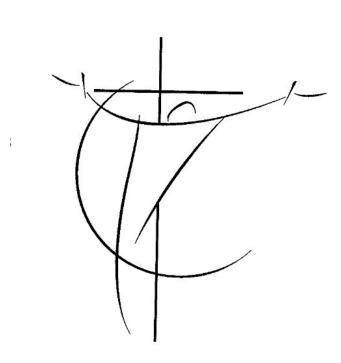
All: Bearing God's blessing to all. Amen.

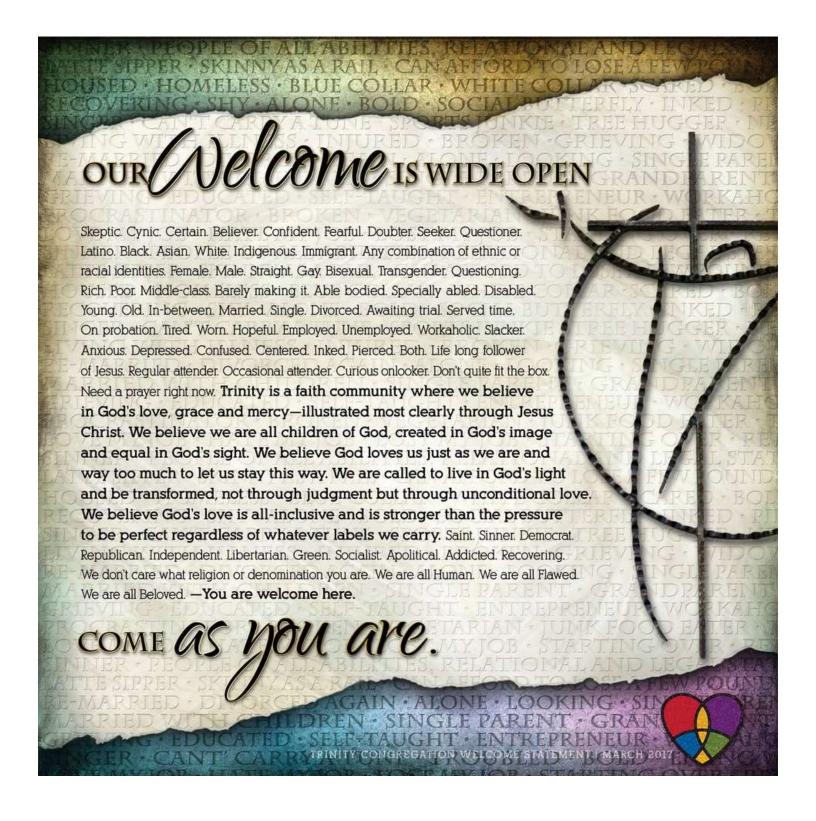
THE SENDING SONG: "Send Us Out" (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.





I Have Decided. Words and Music by Michael Card ©1981 Singspiration Music/Mole End Music (admin. by The Sparrow Corp.) CCLI Lic. #230769. All rights reserved.

From Now On. Words and Music: Hans Peterson. © 1993 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

If I Believe in Jesus. Words and Music by Larry Olson. ©2003 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

Send Us Out. Words and Music by James Hersch. © 1994 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.



From Now On

Congregational lyrics in bold type. Song leader lyrics in italics.



IF I BELIEVE IN JESUS



