

**January 8, 2023**

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: We enter this place of worship in search of light to guide our way.

**People: We seek to exchange the ashes of mourning for the garland of joy.**

Leader: We come because we have seen the light afar off and desire to come closer.

**People: We want to join with others in walking in the light so we may enjoy true human communion.**

Leader: We worship that our light may shine and draw others to God's light.

**People: In Christ, the light has come into the world, the bright expression of God among us. Let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn #326: "Crashing Waters at Creation"**

**\*Invocation**

**Holy God, Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us into one body in Jesus the Christ. Wash over us with your Spirit, that, like Jesus, we may serve you in serving humanity. Baptize us with the fire of your truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Scripture Readings:**

Matthew 3:13-17

Liisa Granfors-Hunt

**Anthem**

**Reception of New Member**

Pastor: This morning we are pleased to receive Anne Garrett into the membership of Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ.

Hear the words of our Lord: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide."

Anne, Jesus Christ has chosen you and, in Baptism, has joined you to himself. He has called you, together with us into the church, which is his body. Now he has brought you to this time and place to unite with us in the mission and worship of this congregation.

As you come into our midst, we invite you to reaffirm your faith as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Do you reaffirm your faith in God who makes us all brothers and sisters, in Christ who is our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit who is our strength? **I do.**

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God, and enlisting in the work of this congregation as it serves the world in Christ's name. **I do.**

Moderator:

Let us the members of Greenbelt Community Church expressing our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry.

Congregation:

**We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. God grant that together we may continue to grow in knowledge and love and be witnesses to our risen Lord.**

Moderator:

In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ, I extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this congregation.

Pastor:

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for the gifts you have given to each of us for the up building of your Church. Confirm in us the call to worship and work that we may live in your Spirit and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Young Disciples may leave for Sunday School at this time**

**Sermon:** "Seeing Our Life Unfold"

**\*Hymn #351:** "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

**The Community at Prayer** (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

**Prayer Response**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)*

### **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**We dedicate our lives and all that we have to work of life, of love, of peace.  
Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen**

**\*Hymn #539: "Won't You Let Me Your Servant?"**

\*Commissioning and Blessing

\*Choral Response

\*Postlude