

**July 2, 2023**

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: O Sing to God a song of joy,

**People: For we have been greeted by our God.**

Leader: O Dance for God a waltz of welcome,

**People: For we have been embraced by our God.**

Leader: O Create for God a portrait of hope,

**People: For we have been inspired by our God.**

**A Prayer for General Synod**

**God of small sanctuaries and large halls,  
We listen and look for your presence immediately surrounding us, energizing us  
to serve the world outside.**

**And today we know that many of our neighbors and friends are gathering in  
Indianapolis for General Synod as they celebrate faith, reflect on your calling,  
seek justice and kindness, and inhale the invigorating breath of the Spirit.**

**We pray for their wisdom, Holy One. May your wisdom carry them from one  
moment to the next as they search for the depths of your love.**

**We pray for their endurance, Loving Spirit. Throughout the long days of Synod,  
may they find rest and renewal, moments of hopeful silence and joyous laughter.**

**We pray for their strength, Divine Redeemer. May your courage permeate their  
hearts as they speak and vote, and may your Holy Curiosity open their souls to  
new stories. May each of us be willing to open our souls to new words, new  
sounds, new stories, and new songs.**

**Your Kin-dom can be found from the conversation between two people drinking  
coffee to the most distant of galaxies across the universe. May we see how to  
serve the Church and your children within the walls of our individual sanctuaries  
to the streets surrounding us to the farthest spaces in our world. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #592: "God of the Ages, Who With Sure Command"**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Scripture Reading:**

Philippians 3:12 – 4:1

Ron Dobson

**Special Music**

Tom Gill

**Time With Young Disciples**

**Unison Prayer**

**Spirit of God, move among us and free us to love and serve you and all people. Refresh our spirits, that we may not be weary in seeking your ways. Whisper to us in a still, small voice; show us what you have for us to do. Guide us to others with whom we may share the labors of doing your will; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Sermon:** "Pressing Toward the Goal"

**\*Hymn #349:** "I Come With Joy"

**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**

**Spirit of God,  
When we share from our souls, we open our hearts to your works in this world.  
When we tend to our neighbors who struggle, we care for the Christ in our midst.  
When we welcome the prophet who shares your love through their advocacy, we care for the Spirit moving throughout our world. When we share with a stranger, we experience Divine joy as our reward for giving. Bless all gifts as they build your Realm here on earth. Amen.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing yet distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. .... Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire human family of your faithful people everywhere saying:

**Holy, holy, holy God  
of love and majesty,  
the whole universe speaks  
of your glory,  
O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes  
in the name of our God!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing of the Elements

We will receive Communion in our seats. Ushers will bring the bread first. Take a piece and pass the plate to your neighbor. "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you." The ushers will bring the cups of juice/wine (inner circle is wine). Take a cup, pass the plate to your neighbor. "Drink this all of you for it is the cup of blessing." Empty cups can be placed in the holders on the back of the pew.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

\*Hymn #497: "Guide My Feet"

\*Commissioning and Blessing

\*Postlude