Gathering Around God’s Word

Call to Worship
There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

Yes. We do.
The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder.

Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear. Church, you belong to God. You are God’s beloved.

Friend, you belong to God.
You are God’s beloved.

Let us worship the God who knows our names.
Let us worship the God who calls us beloved.

SING
“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” #291

Prayer of Confession
Loving God,
from the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced “good” with “not enough.” Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth.

Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us.
For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved.
Show us how to return to that truth.
Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
We believe that the God we see in scripture is a God of love. We believe that God created us and delights in that creation. We believe the psalmist who says, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139)

We believe that, just as God called Jesus “beloved,” God extends this same term of endearment to us.
We believe that no matter our earthly challenges, nothing could strip us of that sweet name. We could fail every test, miss every goal, drop every ball, and we would still be God's beloved. Therefore, we cling to this promise like a rock in the storm. We anchor ourselves with this good news, allowing the anxiety of the day to roll over us as best we can, because we know where we belong. We are children of God. We are beloved. We strive to live this way. Amen.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE
I invite you to turn to one another and share a sign of peace: You're invited to unmute yourselves and exchange peace with one another

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

SECOND LESSON
...The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING
“At the Fount We Start Our Journey” #2114

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY
“Alleluia!” #587

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE
May God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is truly right to give our thanks and praise,
O God of mercy and might.

... May we be fed both spiritually and physically for the journey ahead as we go out into the world to share the good news of God’s great love. Amen!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION
COMMUNION IS SHARED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD’S WORLD

SING  “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” #32

SENDING
Friends, as we leave this place,
 we go into a weary world—so let us speak tenderly.

We will do the good that is ours to do.
We will choose connection.
We will hold onto hope
And remember that Christ was born as one of us.
We are God’s beloved.
So go rejoicing. The world needs it.
Amen.

POSTLUDE  “March in D Major”  George Frederic Handel