

WORSHIP ORDER

PRELUDE

“United”

Handbell Choir

GATHERING

CHORAL INTROIT

“Blessed Be The Name”

(8:00) Ladies Ensemble

“He Is Exalted”

(9:30/11:00) The Sanctuary Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Holy Spirit, rest upon us and anoint us through the power of your Word.

People: Open our lips to proclaim your Gospel. Open our eyes to see your Truth. Open our hearts to share your love.

Leader: May your will be fulfilled in and through our lives, O Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (verses 1, 3, and 4).....#103

***CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

Leader: O God, we long to co-create with you the beloved community which looks to the common good, privileges all equally, and creates societal systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.

People: And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other’s gifts, devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.

Leader: Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice.

People: We allow the voices of brothers and sisters who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us to be silenced. We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality. We foster in them a denigrating sense of nobodiness. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves in the face of their struggle for full human life.

People: For it is not solely hateful words and actions, but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression. Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness. You have called us to be drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness, yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times. To build with God the beloved community seems impossible, and we grow weary.

***PLEASE STAND IN PRAISE TO GOD IF YOU ARE ABLE**

People: We cry, “Peace, peace,” but there is no peace within us or around us. We find ourselves on the path of hatred and oppression, violence and war. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us! God has promised: “I will not keep silent and I will not rest until the vindication of my beloved people shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch. My people shall no more be termed ‘forsaken’ and their land shall no more be termed ‘desolate.’” We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name: “My delight is in them.”

People: Thank you, God for delighting in us even now, for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness, for empowering our work and inviting us once again to create with you the beloved community you long for. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE AND WELCOME**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(11:00) Palmer Lee Watson

WITNESS IN MUSIC

“Peace Like A River/Amazing Grace”

Ladies Ensemble, featuring John Findlay

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

“Love Through Me”

(8:00) Ladies Ensemble, featuring John Findlay

“Alleluia, Alleluia”

(9:30/11:00) The Sanctuary Choir

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:14-21

SERMON

***HYMN**

“For the Healing of the Nations” (verses 1, 2, and 4).....#428

***BENEDICTION**

***PLEASE STAND IN PRAISE TO GOD IF YOU ARE ABLE**