

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

August 9th 2020

Call to Worship *during which you are invited to light a candle*

From before the dawn of creation
and after the end of time,
You are God;
You are our God.

Over all that lives and moves in earth, sea, and sky,
over inert matter and dynamic energy,
You are God;
You are our God.

Of light and darkness,
of height and depth,
You are God,
You are our God.

In faith and doubt, joy or sorrow,
whether we are gathered or scattered,
You are God.
You are our God and we bless You.

* **Hymn 149**

1. Let all creation dance
in energies sublime,
as order turns to chance,
unfolding space and time:
for nature's art
in glory grows
and newly shows
God's mind and heart.

2 Our own amazing earth
with sunlight, cloud and storms,
and life's abundant growth
in lovely shapes and forms
is made for praise,
a fragile whole,
and from its soul
heaven's music plays.

3. Lift heart and soul an voice:
in Christ all praises meet,
and nature shall rejoice
as all is made complete.
In hope be strong,
all life befriend,
and kindly tend
creation's song.

* **Prayer of approach** ending with the Lord's Prayer
(say in whichever language or version you prefer)

THE WORD OF GOD

* **Children's address**

* **Holy Scripture:** *Psalms 139: 1-12*

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

* **Sermon (part 1)**

* **Music in Worship** *Ich folge dir gleichfalls mit freudigen Schritten* from *Johannes-Passion* - J.S Bach
Judi Haynes-Smart, soprano; Kate Wareham, flute

* **Holy Scripture:** *Luke 19: 1-10*

- 19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

* **Sermon (part 2)**

REPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

* **Hymn 97** (a version of Psalm 139)

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| 1 O God, you search me and you know me,
all my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me
ever the maker and keeper of my days. | 3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me, beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future, too. |
| 2 You know my resting and my rising,
you discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me;
in every moment of life or death, you are. | 4 Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight. |
| 5 For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new. | |

* **Prayers of Intercession**

* **Prayer of Dedication**

All things come from you
and of your own we give you -
our time, our treasure
and love without measure,
this day and forever,
Amen.

* **Hymn 577**

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| 1 Christ be beside you,
Christ be before you,
Christ be behind you,
King of your heart.
Christ be with you,
Christ be below you,
Christ be above you,
never to part. | 2 Christ on your right hand,
Christ on your left hand,
Christ all around you,
shield in the strife.
Christ in your sleeping,
Christ in your sitting,
Christ in your rising,
light of your life. |
| 3 Christ be in all hearts
thinking about you,
Christ be in all tongues
telling of you.
Christ be the vision
in eyes that see you;
in ears that hear you,
Christ ever be. | |

* **Blessing**