

Introduction

Land Acknowledgement

Prelude: Come , Thou Almighty King with We Will Glorify. Arranged by Carol Tornquist

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and work of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Leader: May we not give in to the patterns of this world

People: Let us be transformed by the renewing of our minds and hearts

Leader: So we can test and determine the perfect and pleasing will of God

People: Risen Christ help us conform to Your pattern for Life!

Hymn 220 Voices United - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

God of transformation, You come into our world bringing with you, new life,
 New ways of seeing, new ways of being, new ways of relating to others and your world around
 us. You reached out to us, through creation, and through the law, and when that was not
 enough, you came and gave yourself to us, exposing a bigger, more beautiful way to live.
 But sometimes, Lord, we would rather stay small.
 It's comfortable, easier, more familiar.
 Sometimes you call us to be born again, but we would rather stay in the womb
 Forgive us God, and call us out into a more spacious way of being, so that we can grow and be
 shaped into the people you intend, to participate in your recreating work, through Jesus, our
 Lord, AMEN

Hymn sing

A New Creed

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymns 567 Voices United - Will you Come and Follow Me

Scripture Reading

Responsive Reading: Psalm 139: 1-18 (NIV)

- O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
² *You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
 you discern my thoughts from far away.*
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ *Even before a word is on my tongue,
 O Lord, you know it completely.*
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
 and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
 it is so high that I cannot attain it.*
⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
 Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ *If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
 if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.*
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
 and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ *even there your hand shall lead me,
 and your right hand shall hold me fast.*
¹¹ If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
 and the light around me become night',
¹² *even the darkness is not dark to you;
 the night is as bright as the day,
 for darkness is as light to you.*
¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ *I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
 Wonderful are your works;
 that I know very well.*
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
 when I was being made in secret,
 intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ *Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
 In your book were written
 all the days that were formed for me,
 when none of them as yet existed.*
¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
 How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ *I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
 I come to the end!^[a]—I am still with you.*

Scripture Readings:***Exodus 19:1-8***

19 At the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. **2** They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

3 Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: **4** You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. **5** Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, **6** but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.’

7 So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. **8** The people all answered as one: ‘Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.’ Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ ³ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’^[b] ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ ⁵ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.’^[c] ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You^[d] must be born from above.”^[e] ⁸ The wind^[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you^[g] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.’^[h] ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.’^[i]

¹⁶ ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’^[j]

Message – Born Again?

Hymn 642 Voices United – Be Thou my Vision

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Offertory Hymn – (If there is a typical chorus/verse/hymn that is sung here, please go with that)

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 375 Voices United – Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude: Amazing Grace. From Virginia Harmony, 1831. Arranged by Cindy Berry.