## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE Everything I (We) Have is Yours Burton Lane

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

**CALL TO WORSHIP** 

Praise be to God the Creator,

who breathes life into being.

Praise be to God the Redeemer,

who saves us for greater purposes than ourselves.

Praise be to God the Sustainer,

who urges us on even when following Jesus requires difficulty and suffering.

Come, children of the Triune God,

come worship our wild and wonderful Maker.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, present and near. You are beyond our words and our understanding.

Help us to remember that you are at once infinite, boundless, timeless and eternal but, at the same time intimately entwined with our lives. You are with us no matter where we find ourselves.

Loving God, present and near, help us to recognize your presence and nearness with us as we worship together. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 714

God of the Fertile Fields (verses 1, 2, and 3)

(see end of bulletin)

**CALL TO CONFESSION** 

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, in love you birthed us and for love you nourish us. With unconditional grace, you draw us into full faithfulness. And still, we hold back. We are reluctant to trust your love, deferring your forgiveness and neglecting your ways. Too often, we do the selfish thing, not the loving thing. We withhold love from one another, casting judgments rather than offering forgiveness and mercy.

Forgive us, O God, in your great mercy. May we so trust your love that it changes how we think, everything we hope, and all that we do, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

We continue with a moment for silent prayers and personal confession.

KYRIE 575 (see end of bulletin)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(from Romans 8, *The Message* translation)

Nothing can drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us. Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture. Nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI 581 (see end of bulletin)

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

If there is darkness, God, shine light. Where there is confusion, God, bring clarity. When we are inattentive, God, focus our thoughts on your word, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **ENCOUNTERING GOD'S WORD**

FIRST READING Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

SECOND READING Matthew 22.34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

#### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

REFLECTION

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks (verses 1 and 4) (see end of bulletin)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**CALL TO OFFERING** 

DOXOLOGY 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (see end of bulletin)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### GOING IN GOD'S NAME

HYMN 713 Touch the Earth Lightly (verses 1 and 3) (see end of bulletin)

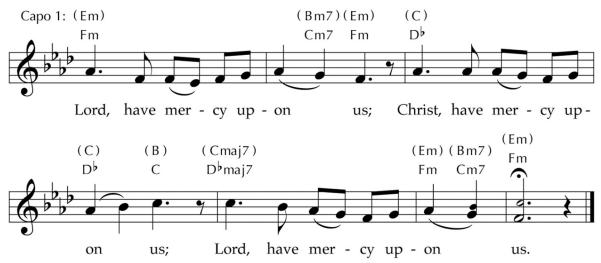
**BENEDICTION** 

POSTLUDE A Time for Love Johnny Mandel



Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

# Lord, Have Mercy upon Us 575



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text KYRIE ELEISON (Pardini)

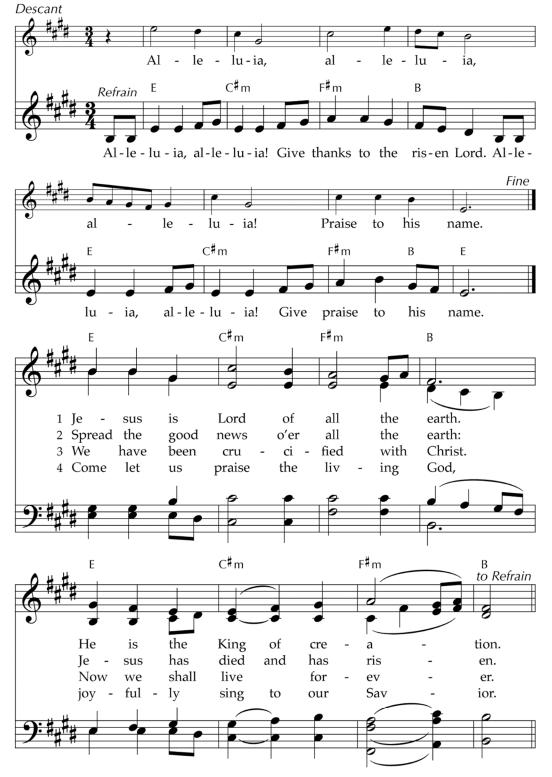
MUSIC: J. Christopher Pardini, 2005

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## 240 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks



This text and tune were created together in the context of an ecumenical, charismatic, missionary Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their energy and emphasis center in the opening and closing refrain's "Alleluia"—the essential Easter word of proclamation.

## 606

# Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology



TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709 MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551 OLD HUNDREDTH

LM

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An Australian aboriginal saying opens this gentle hymn from New Zealand on the stewardship of creation. "Clouds of disaster" in the second stanza refers to the testing of nuclear devices then occurring in the Pacific Ocean, but the concern for all created things is timeless.