

Words to Ponder: “God,” according to the 13th century mystic Mechtild of Magdeburg, “is not only fatherly. God is also mother who lifts Her love children from the ground to Her knee.”

GATHERING MUSIC “As We Gather” **Maranatha Singers**

WELCOME|*PASSING OF THE PEACE **Rev. Ann Hayman**

CALL TO WORSHIP **Elder Glenn Johnson**

God calls

God gathers

God challenges

God moves

God liberates

God saves

Guide us and our lives, O Holy One, so all creation might flourish.

+OPENING HYMN “Kum ba Yah” **The New London Chorale with Bagpipes**

CALL TO CONFESSION **Elder Glenn Johnson**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESION

Holy God, we belittle ourselves in the face of overwhelming problems. We tell ourselves we are powerless to create positive change. We tell ourselves peace is impossible as we invest billions in weapons of war. We refuse new ideas, new solutions, new voices. We are stuck – trapped! – in our comfortable ways. Forgive our reluctance, God. Forgive our ignorance. Forgive our excuse-making. Turn us to all that is possible through you. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE **Elder Glenn Johnson**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE “Simon Says” **Rev. Ann Hayman**

ANTHEM “It Is Well with My Soul” **Elder Dennis Dozier**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Elder Glenn Johnson**

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 24:1-6 (ICB) **Elder Glenn Johnson**

SERMON “Changing Hearts and Lives” **Rev. Ann Hayman**
Mark 6:7-13

WORDS OF FAITH (from a Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.

PASTORAL PRAYER and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Ann Hayman

THE OFFERING

The Call to Giving

Elder Glenn Johnson

The Offertory "You Can't Beat God Giving"

Elder Dennis Dozier

+The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here
below. Praise God above you heavenly hosts. Creator, Christ and Holy
Ghost. Amen.**

The Prayer of Dedication

Elder Glenn Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Glenn Johnson

CLOSING HYMN

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

PH #357

A SENDING LITANY

Rev. Ann Hayman

L: There are people in need whom we encounter each day.

P: How shall we care for them? Their need is so great!

L: What gifts do you have?

P: We have so little.....our energy, our love, our willingness to serve.

L: Those are not little gifts. With those gifts, mighty work can be done.

P: You have worked miracles in our lives, Lord.

L: Now you are being sent as those who bring the good news to people in need.

P: We place our trust in God's presence.

L: Place your hope in God's eternal love.

P: As we go to serve, may we also be thankful for the many ways in which God has blessed us.

L: Now is the time to serve and witness to God's good news.

P: Now is the time to let go of our doubts and trust in God's guidance. AMEN.

POSTLUDE

Hense Powell