

~GATHERING AROUND THE WORD ~

WORDS TO PONDER “Hope is the strongest driving force for people. Hope which brings about change, which provides new realities, is what opens our road to freedom.” (Oscar Arias)

GATHERING MUSIC “I Can See Clearly Now” Holly Cole Trio

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

CALL TO WORSHIP Elder Patricia Boykin

Come and sit with me; we shall study the Word.

Together we shall read and understand.

Come and kneel with me; we shall break the bread.

Together we shall eat and be satisfied.

Come and walk with me; we shall part the waters.

Together we shall risk, and, behold, we shall be changed.

***OPENING HYMN** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” Issac Watts (1719)

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.**

A LITANY OF LOVE AND HOPE

Elder Patricia Boykin

The world arrested Christ our brother. It betrayed and bound him, it tested and mocked him, and it tortured and killed him.

But he stood silent against the madness, and in that silence of his humiliation, justice was denied. It was betrayed and bound, it was tested and mocked, and it was tortured and killed.

Who can describe the generation that took his life from the earth? Who can cleanse the hands that slaughtered the lamb?

O God, make of us another generation,

And let our hands be those not of murderers but midwives.

Let us not mock justice, but embrace it. Let us not take life, but deliver it.

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and whoever loves is born of God.

When our brothers are silenced by false accusers, let us be their voice. When our sisters appear before unjust judges, let us be their defender.

Let us bring our world to its knees before the Holy One, that guilt may be declared. And let us stand in hope when God bids the world rise, that mercy may be granted.

For the Christ who was mortified at our hands has been glorified by the hand of God. His freedom has been restored and his life has been renewed,

That our world's captives might find their liberation and our world's dead, their resurrection.

~PROCLAIMING THE WORD~

TIME WITH CHILDREN

“Loving Others”

Rev. Ann Hayman

ANTHEM

“Just for Me” (by Donnie McClurkin)

Elder Dennis Dozier

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Patricia Boykin

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 118: 1-4

Elder Patricia Boykin

SERMON

“When We Practice Real Love”
I John 3:16-24

Rev. Ann Hayman

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Ann Hayman

The risen Christ meets us at the tomb and turns our tears to joy.

For your love and goodness we give you thanks, O God.

Christ comes through our locked doors and turns our fear to courage.

For your love and goodness we give you thanks, O God.

Christ comes to daily life and work and turns our failure to new vision.

For your love and goodness we give you thanks, O God.

Christ breaks the bread and turns our despair to hope.

For your love and goodness we give you thanks, O God.

PASTORAL PRAYERS | The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Ann Hayman

THE OFFERING

Call to Giving

Offertory

+Doxology

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Elder Patricia Boykin

Elder Dennis Dozier

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

Prayer of Dedication

~BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Patricia Boykin

CLOSING HYMN

“Live into Hope”

PH #332

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ann Hayman

Go now, in the love of our God.

In the hope that God brings we will live for others through our God.

Go now, in the grace of Jesus.

We will forgive others, just as we have been forgiven.

Go now, in the community of the Spirit.

We will serve others in every need, in every place, in every heart.

Go in peace, joy, love and hope! Amen.

POSTLUDE

“ Canto de Esperanza” (“Song of Hope”)

Sembrador