

Words to Ponder: “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” (John F. Kennedy)

Gathering Music “Count Your Many Blessings” Fountainview Academy

Words of Welcome | *Passing of the Peace

Rev. Ann Hayman

(Following the Passing of the Peace please take out your cell phone and text the peace of Christ to someone who is not in church this morning!)

Call to Worship

Barbara Anderson

The God of all shepherds has called us here.

We come today, celebrating God’s love for us.

The Good Shepherd has given his life for us.

We come today, thanking Jesus for his witness and his teaching.

The Shepherding Spirit moves through us, bringing us new hope.

We come today ready to celebrate and to praise God. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

PH #473

Verses 1, 2 and 4

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Barbara Anderson

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace: We thank you for the gift of life. For the breath that sustains life, for the food of this earth that nurtures life, for the love of family and friends without which there would be no life.

We thank you for the mystery of creation: for the beauty that the eye can see, for the joy that the ear may hear, for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder, for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.

We thank you for setting us in communities: for families who nurture our becoming, for friends who love us by choice, for companions at work, who share our burdens and daily tasks, for strangers who welcome us into their midst, for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding, for children who lighten our moments with delight, for the unborn, who offer us hope for the future.

We thank you for this day: for life and one more day to love, for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace, for neighbors and one more person to love and by whom we can be loved, for your grace and one more experience of your presence, for your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation.

Prayer of Dedication

Barbara Anderson

Announcements

Barbara Anderson

Closing Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

PH #555

Benediction (Teresa of Avila)

Rev. Ann Hayman

As you go out from this place, remember that “Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body...
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

**Together we are the resurrected body of Christ in the world. And
wherever we go, however we live into that call, the risen Christ will be
with us, God’s love will surround us, and the Spirit will breathe new
life into our weary souls. Amen.**

Postlude

Hense Powell