

Pastor: For our reluctance to accept your free gifts of time, talent, and treasure and your gracious call to play our part in your ministry: Christ, have mercy.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: For any cause of division in your body for which we are responsible: Lord, have mercy.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: This is the good news, dear friends: the One who knows our worst fills us with the best – grace, wonder, and forgiveness.

Congregation: Our ears tingle with this good news and our hearts overflow with hope.

*All people: Thanks be to God! We are forgiven and at peace.
Amen.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

Blue Hymnal, #35

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: As the Lord has shared his peace with each of us, let us now share that peace with each other. Peace be with you.

Congregation: And peace be with you.

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, “LET THE CHILDREN COME”

HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

Blue Hymnal, #714

HEBREW READING

1 Samuel 15:34–16:13

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-13

GOSPEL READING

Mark 4:26-34

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Baker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: We believe that our God sees us, feels us, and listens to us. Let us lift the celebrations and concerns of our beloved community.

JOYS AND CONCERNS SHARED

All people: Dear God, we know that you have heard our prayers, and we ask that the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with us today and every day. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

THE LORD’S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: When it comes to our resources, we build walls of security around ourselves with our money, time, energy, and activity. We forget that our true home and our true security is found in God alone. May God transform our heart’s desire until our actions align with God’s will for our lives.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God

Blue Hymnal, #46

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*All people: O Holy One, with gratefulness we offer and dedicate these gifts for the continuation of our work in Christ’s name.
Amen.*