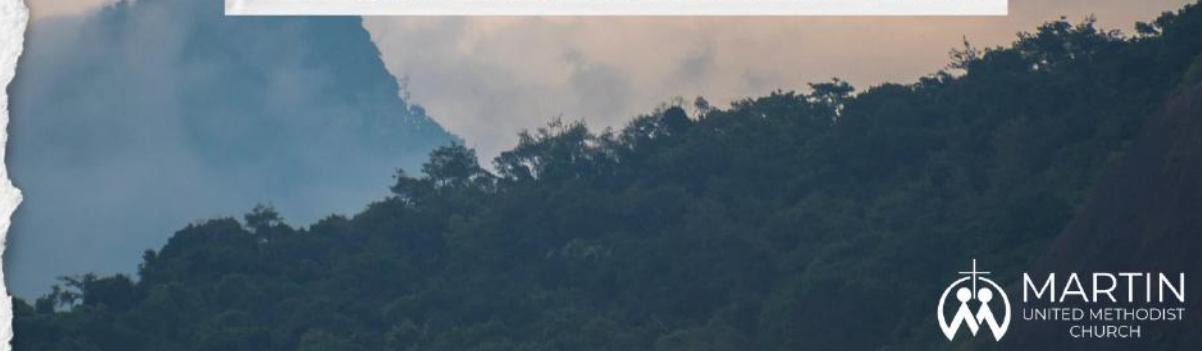




# UNLEASHING HEAVEN

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE



## Martin United Methodist Church Service of Worship

*bold, bold italic are spoken/sung in unison*

TFWS: The Faith We Sing hymnal supplement

W&S: Worship and Song hymnal Supplement

All able are invited to stand for all portions marked with an asterisk (\*)

January 15, 2023

11:00 A.M.

### Prelude

Adoration  
Caleb Bennetch and Dr. Jieun Lee

Felix Borowski

### Welcome

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

## \*Call to Worship

Caleb Bennetch

**One: We have come to worship God, the living God,**

All: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.

**One: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,**

All: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.

**One: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,**

All: Who chooses even you and me,  
to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.  
All glory to God!

~ adapted from a post on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive. <http://www.ucc.org/>

## \*Opening Hymn

*God Is Here*

UMH 660

1. God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer  
2. Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3. Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's  
4. Lord of all, of church and king-dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea-sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul-pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak-en,  
change and doubt keep us faith - ful to the gos-pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es - ty of  
Christ sus - tains us, as of old. Here the ser - vants of the  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -

round us, all our var - ied skills and arts wait the  
preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech, here, in  
Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore what it  
ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive; we, who

com-ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
new-ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
can-not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1978  
MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

ABBOT'S LEIGH  
87.87 D

Words © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1942, renewed 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

## \*Affirmation of Faith

Dr. Daniel Reeves

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

~ posted on The United Church of Canada website. <http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/creed>

**\*Gloria Patri**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

**The Passing of the Peace**

Dr. Daniel Reeves

We invite you to share the peace of Christ  
with those that surround you.

**Children's Time**

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

One of God's great gifts to the world is our kids. We welcome children in worship,  
and celebrate their presence with this special moment just for them.

## The Lord's Prayer

***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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass 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.***

## Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-14

**1** In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, **2** during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3** John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. **4** This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

A voice crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight.

**5** Every valley will be filled,  
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.

The crooked will be made straight  
and the rough places made smooth.

**6** All humanity will see God's salvation.”

**7** Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? **8** Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. **9** The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.”

**10** The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

**11** He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.”

**12** Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

**13** He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.”

**14** Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?”

He answered, “Don’t cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay.”

## **Sermon**

### *Preparing the Way*

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

## **Hymn of Response**

### *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

UMH 207

The musical notation is for a hymn in G major and common time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The music is divided into four sections, each with a circled number above it. The lyrics are: "Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord," (sections 1 and 2), "and all peo-ple will see the sal - va-tion of our God. Pre -" (sections 3 and 4).

WORDS: Isaiah 40:3; 52:10

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé, 1984

PREPARE THE WAY

Irr.

Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

## Offertory Prayer

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

You may give an offering at [www.martinmethodist.org/give](http://www.martinmethodist.org/give), by mail, or give via text to 844-976-2515. Simply enter the amount you would like to give, and instructions will follow.

*Martin United Methodist Church  
2621 Bedford Road  
Bedford, Texas 76021*

## Offertory

*Give Me A Song  
The Worship Choir*

Heather Sorenson

*Jesus, give me a song to sing when the world goes silent.*

*Jesus, give me a song.*

*Lord, give me a song for my heart to soar,*

*A melody I've never sung before.*

*Jesus, give me a song.*

*Jesus, give me a word to speak when the world stops listening.*

*Jesus, give me a word.*

*Lord, send down the message that they need to hear,*

*Then help me to speak it loud and clear.*

*Jesus, give me a word.*

*Jesus, give me your light to shine in a world of darkness.*

*Jesus, give me your light.*

*Lord, turn this night-time into day,*

*then use me to show that there's a better way.*

*Jesus, give me your light.*

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.*

*Lord, give me your light. Lord give me a word. Lord, give me a song.*

## \*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## \*Invitation

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

## \*Hymn of Commitment *In the Midst of New Directions* TFWS 2238

1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of  
2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions  
3. As we stand a world divided by our own self -  
4. We are man and we are woman, all persuasions,  
5. Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to with -

changing ways, and despair, seek - ing schemes, old and young, draw in pain, who will lead the who will lift the grant that we, your each a gift in may your blaz - ing pil - grim peo - ples ol - ive branch - es? glob - al vil - lage, your cre - a - tion, phoe - nix spir - it

*Refrain*

wan-dering in their sep-are-ate ways?  
 Who will light the flame of care?  
 might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar,  
 each a love song to be sung.  
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, we your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney  
 now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

WORDS: Julian B. Rush (Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14)  
 MUSIC: Julian B. Rush

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NEW DIMENSIONS  
 87.87 with Refrain

## \*Benediction

Rev. Daniel Hawkins

## Postlude

Emma Wimberg



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