

“Every child you encounter is a divine appointment.” — Wess Stafford, President Emeritus of Compassion International

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

People On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

Leader All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

People They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

INVOCATION

**Perfect Light of revelation,
as you shone in the life of Jesus,
whose epiphany we celebrate,
so shine in us and through us,
that we may become beacons of truth and compassion,
enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.**

Scripture Psalm 138:1–8 Tim Barre

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for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.
For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

HYMN I Love to Tell the Story #480

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:41-51

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they

did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

SERMON “Where is that kid?”

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER *Day by day, day by day, I dear Lord three things I pray: to see Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, follow Thee more nearly; day by day.* #599

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray with whatever words are natural to you.

In peace we pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying...

HYMN Out of Need and Out of Custom #293?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION & Postlude