

## Welcome and Announcements

### Opening Prayer

Join us in singing:

Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;  
come seek the tender faithfulness of God. (Sing Twice)

Lector: We gather to worship together,

**All: Different people, different lives, different stories,**

Lector: We gather to reconnect with one another,

**All: Different people, different lives, different stories,**

Lector: We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears....

**All: Different people, different lives, different stories,**

Lector: We gather to lift up the lowly, the disenfranchised,

**All: Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in us, among us, and through us as we worship this morning!**

### Opening Song

**“Blessed Assurance**

See next page for lyrics

### First Reading

**Luke 1:5-25**

See next page for reading

### Scripture Reading

**Luke 1:46-55**

See next page for reading

### Gathering Song

**“Great Is Your Faithfulness”**

See next page for lyrics

### Sermon

“Lifting The Lowly”

**Rev. Rick Rhen-Sosbe**

### Song of Reflection

### Prayers of the People

(Join us in signing when instructed)

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

### Lord’s Prayer

## Offering /Offertory

### Doxology

Thank You God, Thank You God,  
Thank You God, I Just Want To Thank You God.

Been So Good, Been So Good,  
Been So Good, I Just Want To Thank You God.

## Communion

### Invitation

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them up to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Join us in singing when instructed:

Like the woman at the well I was seeking for things that could not satisfy; and then I  
heard my Savior speaking,  
“Draw from my well that never shall run dry.”

Fill my Cup, God, I lift it up, God  
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul  
Bread of Heaven, feed my til I want no more.  
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

### COMMUNION SONG

**Join us in singing**

Fill my Cup, God, I lift it up, God Come and quench this thirsting of my soul  
Bread of Heaven, feed my til I want no more. Fill my cup, fill it up and make me  
whole!

### Closing Song

**“Leaning On The Everlasting Arm”**

See next page for lyrics

## Benediction

## Lyrics

### “Blessed Assurance”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood!

This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blessed;  
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

This is my story, this is my song Praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is  
my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

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### “Great Is Your Faithfulness”

Great Is Your Faithfulness, O God Creator, There Is No Shadow Of Turning With You.  
You Do Not Change, Your Compassions They Fail Not;  
As You Have Been You Forever Will Be.

Great Is Your Faithfulness! Great Is Your Faithfulness! Morning By Morning New Mercies I  
See. All I Have Needed Your Hand Has Provided;  
Great Is Your Faithfulness, God Unto Me!

Summer And Winter And Springtime And Harvest, Sun, Moon And Stars In Their Courses  
Above Join With All Nature In Manifold Witness  
To Your Great Faithfulness, Mercy And Love.

Great Is Your Faithfulness! Great Is Your Faithfulness! Morning By Morning New Mercies I  
See. All I Have Needed Your Hand Has Provided;  
Great Is Your Faithfulness, God Unto Me!

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### “Leaning On The Everlasting Arm”

What A Fellowship, What A Joy Divine, Leaning On The Everlasting Arms;  
What A Blessedness, What A Peace Is Mine, Leaning On The Everlasting Arms.

Leaning, Leaning, Safe And Secure From All Alarms;  
Leaning, Leaning, Leaning On The Everlasting Arms.

What Have I To Dread, What Have I To Fear, Leaning On The Everlasting Arms?  
I Have Blessed Peace With My God So Near, Leaning On The Everlasting Arms.

Leaning, Leaning, Safe And Secure From All Alarms;  
Leaning, Leaning, Leaning On The Everlasting Arms.

## First Reading

### Luke 1:5-25

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of God. And yet they had no child, because Elizabeth was infertile, and they were both advanced in years.

Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of God and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.

Now an angel of God appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice over his birth. For he will be great in the sight of God; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to God. And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers back to their children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in her years.” The angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.”

And meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and were wondering at his delay in the temple. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple, and he repeatedly made signs to them, and remained speechless. When the days of his priestly service were concluded, he went back home.

Now after these days his wife Elizabeth became pregnant, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, “This is the way our God has dealt with me in the days when God looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among people.”

## Second Reading

### Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord,  
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

For God has had regard for the humble state of this bond-servant;

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is God's name.

God's mercy is to generation after generation toward those who revere God. God has done mighty deeds with God's arm; those whose thoughts of their hearts were proud have been scattered. The Almighty has brought down rulers from *their* thrones,  
And has exalted those who were humble.

Our God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty-handed. God has given help to God's servant Israel, In remembrance of God's mercy,  
Just as God spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever.”