

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Leader: Life can sometimes be quite challenging.

People: **We look around and wonder where God is amid the struggle**

Leader: Yet, we know, in the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

People: **God surrounds us with love and courage.**

Leader: Come, let us praise God for God's abiding presence this morning.

People: **God, thank you for always being with us; we focus our attention on you and your loving presence as we worship you this hour! AMEN.**

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Opening Song

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

See next page for lyrics

First Reading

Romans 12:1-8

See next page for reading

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

See next page for reading

Gathering Song

"Open The Eyes Of My Heart"

See next page for lyrics

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis

Prayers of the People (Join us in singing when invited)

*Not my brother, not my sister,
But it's me, O God, Standing in the need of prayer;
Not my brother, nor my sister,
But it's me, O God, Standing in the need of prayer.*

*It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.*

**And, now, we will rise as we are able and pray the prayer
Jesus taught us, saying...**

Our Creator, who art in heaven

Hallowed be Your name

Your kingdom come Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory Forever. Amen

Offering

Offertory & Doxology

Join us in singing

I've Got Peace Like A River, I've Got Peace Like A River,

I've Got Peace Like A River, In My Soul.

I've Got Peace Like A River, I've Got Peace Like A River,

I've Got Peace Like A River, In My Soul.

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 the Communion Song when invited

*Make us One, Lord, Make us One,
Holy Spirit, Make us One Let Your love flow
So the world will know, We are One in You*

Closing Song

"I Have Decided To Follow Jesus "

See next page for lyrics

Benediction

Lyrics

"In Christ There Is No East Or West."

In Christ There Is No East Or West, In Christ No South Or North;
But One Community Of Love Throughout The Whole Wide Earth.

In Christ Shall True Hearts Everywhere Their High Communion Find;
God's Service IS The Golden Cord Close binding Humankind.

In Christ Is Neither Jew Nor Greek, And Neither Slave Nor Free;
For Men and Women Live In God, And All Are Kin To Me.

In Christ Now Meet Both East And West, In Christ Meet South And North;
One Joyous, True Community Throughout The Whole Wide Earth.

"Open The Eyes Of My Hear "

Open The Eyes Of My Heart, God, Open The Eyes Of My Heart;
I Want To See You, I Want To See You.

Open The Eyes Of My Heart, God, Open The Eyes Of My Heart;
I Want To See You, I Want To See You.

To See You High And Lifted Up, Shining In The Light Of Your Glory.
Pour Out Your Pow'r And Love; As We Sing Holy, Holy, Holy.

Open The Eyes Of My Heart, God, Open The Eyes Of My Heart;
I Want To See You, I Want To See You.

Open The Eyes Of My Heart, God, Open The Eyes Of My Heart;
I Want To See You, I Want To See You.

"I Have Decided To Follow Jesus "

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus, I Have Decided To Follow Jesus,
I Have Decided To Follow Jesus—
No Turning Back, No Turning Back.

The World Behind Me, The Cross Before Me, The World Behind Me, The
Cross Before Me,
The World Behind Me, The Cross Before Me—
No Turning Back, No Turning Back.

First Reading Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—God's good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Humanity is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by our God in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hade will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the realm of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.