

Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: Rejoice and be glad! God has given us new life.

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Opening Hymn Joyful, Joyful We Adore You VU 232

Opening Prayer *(please be seated)*

All: "Gracious God, who creates, sustains and redeems all life, we come seeking your presence that both disturbs us and brings us peace. We come to answer your call; openly, fully, lovingly.

Fill us with your love and empower us for faithful living. Grant us stillness, and energy, to hear your Word. Amen."

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer refrain VU 391
(please remain seated)

All: "God, reveal your presence: as we now adore you and with awe appear before you.
Here in this your temple: all within keep silence, gather now with deepest reverence.
You alone God we own, you, our God and Saviour: praise your name for ever."

Offering Invitation

Offering Refrain *(please stand if comfortable)* VU 541

All: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit; One. Amen."

(offering takers may now be seated)

Offering Prayer of Dedication

All: "You, O God,
take what is ordinary and transform it for love.
Take our gifts this morning,
blessing and transforming them
for your work in the world. Amen."

Special Music

We Hear God's Word

Christian Scripture Matthew 22:34-46 *pew Bible p. 804*

One: These are the stories of our faith.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Response

VU 37

All: "Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!"

Invitation to Confession

Our Prayer:

All: "Holy God,
we confess that at times our lives are out of balance.
We hurry to get things done, and in the process
we forget we are not alone.
We consume without wondering how things come to us.
Our hopes overshadow the moment, and our desiring
causes us to pass by the beauty of your world
with little notice. *cont'd*