

Assemble in God's Name

Prelude

Ring of Church Bell

Welcome

Read Vision Statement

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather as fragile vessels- ordinary, worn, and human

People: Yet carrying a treasure beyond measure

Leader: We come with our burdens: pressed on every side, tested, uncertain, and sometimes weary –

People: Yet not crushed, not driven to despair, not abandoned.

Leader: The light of God shines not because we are strong, but because God's power is at work within us.

People: So we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we fade, inwardly we are renewed.

Leader: For what is seen is temporary,

People: But what is unseen is eternal.

Leader: Come, then – bring your whole selves, vulnerable, human and beloved.

People: Let us worship the God who fills jars of clay with heavenly treasure.

Prayer of Invocation

God of light and life, you who formed us from the clay of the earth and breathed your Spirit into fragile bodies- We come before you as jars of clay: ordinary, imperfect, beloved. Be present among us in this time of worship – in our singing, our praying, our listening, and our silence. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our treasure and our hope. Amen.

Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness (Glory to God #39)

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of mercy, you have placed your treasure within us, yet we confess we forget how fragile we are.

People: We pretend to be strong when we are weak. We hide our chinks and broken places rather than bringing them into your light.

Leader: We fear being pressed, perplexed, and burdened –

People: And we forget that you are present in all of it.

Leader: Forgive us when we lose heart.

People: Renew us inwardly, day by day. Remind us that your power is made perfect in weakness.

All: Restore us, O God, and fill these jars of clay with your grace again.

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed and held. Thanks be to God!

Response: Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (or Gloria Patri)

Share the Peace of Christ with One Another

Proclaim God's Word

Anthem

Moment for Children

Idea: Say, "I want to store these battery candles in my paper bag. I'm going to turn the candles on. They're pretty aren't they? And now I'm going to put them in my bag. Uh-oh, we can't see the light. But what happens if the bag tears? Look! Now we can see the light. Light shines out! Without the tear you can't see any light. But when something goes

wrong, like the bag tears, it's a chance for the light to get out. Wow! That's pretty cool. (if desired give children a battery operated tealight candle to take with them.)

Prayer for Illumination

God of Light, open our eyes to what cannot be seen, our hearts to what cannot be measured, and our lives to your eternal glory. Amen.

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-9, 16-18

Sermon: Caterpillar Soup

Hymn: It is Well with my Soul (Glory to God #840)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Leader: This is not the table of the strong, but the table of the Savior. This is not a table for those who have it all together, but for jars of clay – fragile, worn, and beloved. Here, God meets us in our weakness and fills us again with grace.

So come, you who feel pressed but not crushed, perplexed but still seeking, weary but longing for renewal. Come and receive the treasure of Christ.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God –

You formed us from the dust of the earth, shaping us as vessels of your love. Though we are fragile, you call us good. Though we are broken, you do not discard us. When we turned

away, you did not abandon us, but sent prophets, teachers, and guides to remind us of your eternal glory. And so, with all creation, we praise your name.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Holy are you, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Lord.

He came among us in human frailty, a vessel of your divine love. He knew suffering, rejection, and death, yet was not crushed, not abandoned, not destroyed. Through his life, death, and resurrection, you revealed a treasure beyond all measure – your grace poured out for the world.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: “Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, he took the cup, saying: “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us our resurrected Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, jars of clay carrying your treasure.

Renew us inwardly day by day. Strengthen us when we are pressed. Hold us when we are struck down. Lift our eyes to what is eternal.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen

Hymn: Come to the Table of Grace (Glory to God #507)

Communion of the People

Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Give Thanks to God

Call for the Offering

God's Tithes and Your Offering Received

Responsive Hymn: Give Thanks (or The Doxology)

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, you have entrusted us, fragile as we are, with the treasure of your love and grace. From all that you have given us, we now return a portion to you. Bless these gifts, that they may carry your light into places of need, hope into places of despair, and love into places of brokenness. Use us, and these offerings, as vessels of your mercy in the world. And remind us always that the treasure is yours, and the glory is yours alone. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn: In the Bulb There is a Flower (Glory to God #250)

Charge: Go into the world as jars of clay – not perfect, but purposeful. Carry the treasure entrusted to you.

Benediction

All: Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Repay no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.

Postlude