

# ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

5th Sunday in Easter

2 May 2021

Guest Pastor Rev. Dr. Ric Neese

## PRELUDE

"We live stitch by stitch, when we're lucky. If you fixate on the big picture, the whole shebang, the overview, you miss the stitching. And maybe the stitching is crude, or it is unraveling, but if it were precise, we'd pretend that life was just fine and running like a Swiss watch. That is not helpful if on the inside our understanding is that life is more often a cuckoo clock with rusty gears."

---Anne LaMott,

*Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair* pp. 13-14.

## SHARING IN OUR COMMON LIFE

Introductions & Announcements

## CHIMES & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come together, all creation, to sing God's praise!

**We come, bringing our stories and eager to hear the stories of others.**

Let us bring our wisdom and our worship; let us bring our faith and our feelings into the presence of God.

**Creating God! Create us anew.**

**Jesus Christ! Walk with us still.**

**Great Spirit! Breathe through our lives.**

Let us fill the air with singing.

\*HYMN #396 "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

Grace Mick & Dave Smith, vocalists

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, who made the world and reaches out to it with a love fierce and passionate, tender and kind.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ. God revealed in a human life. He touched the untouchable, pardoned the unforgivable and unmasked the powers that enslave us. In fear and arrogance we cast him, lifeless, into the grave, and with him went our hopes of salvation.**

**Raised by God, he is parting the sea of evil and despair and leading us across into the land of freedom and promise.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit; God's mysterious presence with us; whose breathing gives life; whose fire purges and renews; whose wisdom surprises, prompts and questions, awakening courage, humor and hope.**

**We believe in ourselves; made in the image of God and growing to wholeness in Christ. Gathered by the Spirit, we have been baptized into a common life: a life laid open to all; overflowing with love and mercy; richer than mind can measure, but appearing foolish to the world.**

**And we trust that the foolishness of God will prove wiser than the wisdom of the world, and that the suffering of God will heal the earth and fulfill our hopes of justice and peace.**

**MUSIC FOR WORSHIP** "There Is a Balm in Gilead" / "Steal Away to Jesus" Organ solo, arranged by Chas.Callahan

**SCRIPTURE** John 15:1-8

**SERMON** "Pruning the Vine" Ric Neese

\*HYMN #726 "Will you Come and Follow Me"

## JOYS & CONCERNS & PASTORAL PRAYER

## THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** #652 "A Grateful Heart" (Psalm 111)

## \*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,**

**Whose Daystar shines for us on high,**

**Whose Spirit brings into our sight**

**The hope which to our world draws nigh. Amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God, here is what we have. It is both visible and invisible.**

**The visible are these tokens of our work represented by coins and paper; but the invisible is here, too. We are offering the fragile dreams and hopes by which we chart our lives. Receive them in love and bless them to completion. Amen.**