April 21, 2024  
*Easter Season*Welcome and Announcements

*Time of Gathering*

Prelude: *Angel’s Serenade* - Gaetano Braga (1829-1907)

**Call to Worship** (based on Jeremiah 31: 27-34)

Holy One, dwell within us.  
**Whisper in our ears;**  
Glimmer in our vision;  
**Write upon our hearts.**  
We wait  
**with open ears, open eyes, open hearts.**  
***Amen***

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on **Spacious Faith.**  <http://spaciousfaith.com/2012/01/18/wednesday-worship-piece-isaiah/>

**Opening Hymn:** *Called as Partners in Christ’s Service*, #495

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,

We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.

May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,

Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,

Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.

Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,

Blending huma skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,

Help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.

Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,

Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life

That surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.

Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,

Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

*Time of Confession and Prophetic Action*

**Prayer of Confession**

Holy One,  
We long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace.  
**To serve each other in love and humility.  
To serve your world with wisdom and energy.**  
Forgive us when we stumble over pride,  
when our words and actions are not guided by love.  
**Turn our hearts when we act in folly.  
Restore our energy when it is gone.**  
Sometimes, many times, O God, our efforts fail.

***Silence is kept***

**Assurance of Pardon**

**We rejoice that Your abundant grace is strong and eternal,**  
***And forgiveness is ours through Jesus Christ.  
Thanks be to God.  
Amen.***

**Gloria** #756 (round)

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.**

*Time of Prayer*

Prayers of the People  
Lord’s Prayer:

Our [Father/Mother/Creator] who art in Heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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. Let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Time of Reflection*

Acts 17: 1-9 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

**Hymn:** *O God of Earth and Altar*, #582

O God of earth and altar, bow down and hear our cry;  
Our earthly rulers falter, our people drift and die;  
The walls of gold entomb us, the swords of scorn divide;  
Take not your thunder from us, but take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches, from lies of pen and voice,  
From all the easy speeches that make our hearts rejoice,  
From value’s profanation, from honor sacrificed,  
from sleep and from damnation, deliver us, O Christ!

Awaken us to action and forge us into one,  
defying sect and faction; O God, your will be done!  
Oppressive systems snare us; our apathies increase,  
Great God, in mercy spare us for justice and for peace!

**Reflection:** *Growing Pains*

*Time of Offering*

**Offertory:** *Quietude #8 in G Major* - James Michael Stevens

Doxology:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God all creatures here below**

**Praise God for all that love has done;**

**Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Dedication

*Time of Commissioning*

**Closing Hymn**: *Sent Forth by God’s Blessing*, #76

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,   
the people off God from this dwelling take leave.  
The service is ended, O now be extended  
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all  
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us  
to work for God’s realm and to answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,   
the tasks of our every-day life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,   
embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.  
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,   
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and that name with we bear.

Benediction and Commissioning

Postlude*: Shout to the North* - Martin Smith, arr. Bryce Inman