

## ***Daring to Hope Again***

### **Welcome**

L: Each of us has choices about how we will respond to events in our lives that cause us grief. We can become hard, bitter, and angry. Another alternative for us is to allow difficulties to open us to God's healing in new ways. Through God's healing, we can grow deeper in our faith and our trust.

If we allow our hearts to become hardened to God's healing, we put ourselves on the casualty list. When we choose trust and faith over fear and doubt, we will find hope that will carry us through.

We pray this worship service will be an opportunity for you to make yourself available to experience the life-giving presence of Jesus. Allow yourself to see his face covered with tears and feel the brokenness of his heart as he sat with those who were filled with dark despair. Allow Jesus to meet you with his healing love, so that you might find resurrection in your life and experience the power of hope again.

### **Prelude                    "There is a Balm in Gilead"**

### **Gather**

L: Blessed be God eternal, watching over all we do.  
       Blessed be Jesus, our wisdom and companion in the striving.  
       Blessed be the divine Spirit, constantly renewing our spirit of hope.

### **Psalm 63 (from *Psalms for Praying*, Nan Merrill)**

L: O Love, You are my Beloved, and  
       I long for You,  
       my soul thirsts for You;  
 All that is within me thirsts,  
       as in a dry and barren land  
       with no water.  
 So I have called out to You in  
       my heart,  
       sensing your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is  
Life to me,  
my lips will praise You.  
I would radiate your love as long  
as I live,  
becoming a blessing to others  
in gratitude to You.  
My soul feasts as with a  
magnificent banquet,  
and my mouth praises You with  
joyful lips,  
When I ponder on your kindness, and  
meditate on You throughout  
the night;  
For You have been my salvation,  
and in the shadows of your wings  
I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to You,  
your love upholds me.  
The fears that seem to separate me  
from You  
shall be transformed and  
disappear;  
As they are faced, each fear  
is diminished;  
they shall be gone as in a dream  
when I awaken.  
And my soul shall rejoice in the  
Beloved;  
You who open your heart to Love  
will live in peace and joy!

## Psalm Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Good and gracious God, as morning breaks, we look to you to be our strength this day. Breathe into us the Spirit who dwells in all hearts. Open our eyes to see your kindness. Open our ears to cherish your word of hope. Open our lips to speak your praise. Open our hands to receive the grace only you can provide us. In our times of trials and doubt, help us to cling and hold fast to you. This morning, and all mornings, keep us singing of your goodness and glory. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Gospel Reading – John 11:1-7, 17-37

**Monologue:** Part 1 “Mary: Daring to Hope Again”

*Silence*

## Gather

L: When darkness fills our lives, we wonder, “Where are you, Jesus? Do you even care about us?”

**C: Jesus is doing the same thing today as on the day he went to the tomb of his friend Lazarus—weeping for us and drying our tears.**

L: We feel lost and alone. Sometimes we feel like we don’t know who we are.

**C: When we remember the suffering Christ and the despair and sorrow of his friends and followers, we know that we are not alone. Many have walked this way before.**

L: It has seemed unbearable at times to endure our losses and experience our pain.

**C: Christ assures us that he is patiently waiting with us as we endure distress. Our trials are not overwhelming to him.**

L: Thanks be to God and to our suffering servant Jesus Christ.

**C: We open ourselves to you now, so you may create life out of death, carve hope out of despair, and restore our wholeness. Amen.**

## Gospel Reading – John 11:38-44

**Monologue:** Part 2 “Mary: Daring to Hope Again”

*Silence*

## Song of the Day

## "You Are Mine"



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,  
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,  
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,  
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the  
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be  
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*  
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*  
 all will know my name. *To refrain*  
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



*Refrain*  
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*

4 "I

Text: David Haas, b. 1957

Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas

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### **Prayers of the People of God**

L: All powerful God, you dwell within us during times of weakness and strength, and so we bring to you the prayers that dwell within us.

*Silence*

L: In fear and apprehension, hesitation, and uncertainty that we experience . . . Spirit of hope,

**C: Come sustain us.**

L: In the sense of the mystery of the unknown, and in the wonder that dawns in us, as we seek to follow you . . . Spirit of hope,

**C: Come sustain us.**

L: In the pain and restlessness that we sometimes experience . . . Spirit of hope,

**C: Come sustain us.**

L: We pray for those in need, for those who are tired and weary, for those who are anxious and facing difficult decisions, for those who have health concerns and for those who are in the midst of new grief [insert weekly prayer concerns here] . . . Spirit of hope,

**C: Come sustain us.**

L: We thank you God, for these moments of prayer. Grant us your consolation in the midst of the difficult moments we are going through now and lead us to eternal life. We ask this through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

L: God of hope and new life, help us to celebrate the joy of abundant life as you intend for us. Through your great love, let all who need you now, feel your presence and know your peace, as shown through your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be 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.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **Closing Blessing**

L: Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing:

May the God of new beginnings lead us forward this day.

**C: Amen.**

L: May the God who brings us new life in Christ fill us with resurrection and joy this day.

**C: Amen.**

L: May the God who abides within us be revealed to all we meet this day.

**C: Amen.**

L: May the God who consoles and protects us soothe any heartache this day.

**C: Amen.**

L: May the God who desires abundant life for all creation renew our spirits this day.

**C: Amen.**

L: Knowing that many of you miss sharing Holy Communion together, I have written a short blessing to close our worship service:

Christ you have met us at this very Table so many times before.

Now we ask for a sense of your promised presence once more.

In this time we must wait our turn to taste your holy feast;

But as we gather at other tables, fill us with your gracious peace.

L: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**