

The altar Flowers are given by Gib and Jeannie Mitchell in loving memory of their daughter, **Karyn Humphreys**; and by Lee Jr. ,Vanessa, and Marie in honor of their parents **Lee & Bettye Smith's 64th wedding anniversary.**

PRELUDE

CALL to WORSHIP

One: For words that give direction and definition to our lives,

Many: We give thanks for moments of clarity and certainty in the shifting sands of today.

One: For words that confound and confuse us, causing us to feel cut off or cornered.

Many: We name that not all the ties that bind us to others are a blessing.

One: For words that sail in one ear and out the other,

Many: We pray that what is said, sung, and stirring within us today will leave a sense and scent of the sacred in such a time as this.

OPENING HYMN:

What a Covenant

No. 471

What a covenant, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

***Refrain* : Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. (*Refrain*)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms.

I have blessed peace with my Savior near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (*Refrain*)

OPENING PRAYER

Calling and covenanting God, You have chosen so many ways to reconcile our human relationship with You. You wrote to Abraham and Sarah on the stars. To Moses You danced in the flames of a burning bush and gave the mysterious name, "I AM". You appeared to Isaiah in worship. Then, two thousand years ago, You came in the form of a wandering rabbi who was born in a barn and whose heart was ablaze with Your love. Renew and remind us that in You we find our deepest sense of light and life. Let this prayer be more than words spoken to a screen in our homes, but a heartfelt orientation of our whole life this week. Amen.

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Galatians 3, selected verses

Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator. Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one. Is the law then opposed to the promises of God? ***Certainly not!*** For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that

we might *be justified by faith*. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus **you are all children** of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer servant or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

SERMON

House Rules

MUSICAL INTERLUDE to PRAYER *Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed*

No. 328
Tallis Canon

**Wonder of wonders, here revealed; God's covenant with us is sealed.
And long before we know or pray, God's love enfolds us every day.**

**Here in this sacrament we see God's grace unbound, for all, for me!
May we respond with joyful praise in loving service all our days.**

**Now we our vow of faith renew, stretch wide our sights to global view,
And claim with Christians far and near a larger family held dear.**

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
Amen.**

HYMN

In Christ There is No East or West

No. 394

**In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close binding humankind.**

**In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE