

Altar Flowers dedicated to the Glory of God, are given by Mary Kukainis for a special happy birthday to **Robert Procter** and for her grandchildren: **Nora, Ava** and **Levi**.

Also by Phil Swain in **loving memory of family members**.

Celebration Fund: from Fred and Lee Brockmann, celebrating **Lee's birthday** on October 9th, the birth of their 2nd great grandson on October 1st, and the 13th birthday of their 1st great grandson on October 3rd.

PRELUDE

CALL to WORSHIP *Just Around the House, Early in the Morning* by Mary Oliver

Though I have been scorned for it,
let me never be afraid to use the word *beautiful*.
For within is the shining leaf
and the blossoms of the geranium at the window.
And the eyes of the happy puppy as he wakes.
The colors of the old and beloved afghan lying
by itself, on the couch, in the morning sun.
The hummingbird's nest perched now in a
corner of the bookshelf, in front of so many
books of so many colors.
The two poached eggs. The buttered toast.
The ream of brand-new paper just opened,
white as a block of snow.
The typewriter humming, ready to go.

What did you see just around your house today that evoked, provoked the word, "beautiful?"

OPENING HYMN: *Morning Has Broken*

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sun-lit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning.
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

OPENING PRAYER

Prayer by Maya Angelou

Father, Mother God, thank you for Your presence during the hard and mean days. For then we have You to lean upon. Thank you for Your presence during the bright and sunny days, for then we can share that which we have with those who have less. And thank you for Your presence during the Holy Days, for then we are able to celebrate You and our families and our friends. For those who have no voice, we ask You to speak. For those who feel unworthy, we ask You to pour Your love out in waterfalls of tenderness. For those who live in pain, we ask You to bathe them in the river of Your healing. For those who are lonely, we ask You to keep them company. For those who are depressed, we ask You to shower upon them the light of hope. Dear Creator, You, the borderless sea of substance, we ask You to give all the world that which we need most -- Peace. Amen.

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 4 & 5, *selected verses*

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died,^[u] so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.^[u] ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

SERMON

Is Rejoicing Possible Right Now?

HYMN

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

No. 355

**God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove.
Breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
Give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;
Send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.**

**Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made flesh, love crucified.
Teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
In your tending may all pastors learn and live a shepherd's care;
Grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.**

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.

**Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony.
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE