

Flowers are given in honor of **Ms. Lovette Harper** by Radiah Lovette Harper, Jinan Harper O'Connor, Onaje S. Harper, Dr. Katrina Harper, and the great, great, GRAND children, Kiara and Noble.

PRELUDE

Fanfare and Processional

Lynn Trapp

INVITATION

OPENING HYMN

You Are Called to Tell the Story

#357

**You are called to tell the story, passing words of life along,
then to blend your voice with others as you sing the sacred song.
Christ be known in all our singing, filling all with songs of love.**

**You are called to teach the rhythm of the dance that never ends,
then to move within the circle, hand in hand with strangers, friends.
Christ be known in all our dancing, touching all with hands of love.**

**May the One whose love is broader than the measure of all space
give us words to sing the story, move among us in this place.
Christ be known in all our living, filling all with gifts of love.**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we have taken countless workshops on finding our purpose, passion, and to figure out where You are calling us to pour out our energy. Yet, we can remain baffled and bewildered. We believe that everyone else has their life figured out, while ours is a mess of sticky notes, unresolved questions, and unfinished projects. Meet us today in the half-done and unfinished. Meet us in the times we have talked ourselves out of doing something because we might appear foolish. Help us forgive ourselves for things we said that we'd like to rewind and take back. Help us reach out to those whose words have left wounds. Help us release to You that which cannot be resolved by our own efforts. Gather us in as a beautiful band of misfits who all share in the beauty of being called, "Beloved." In the name of the One who taught and lived this truth, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

CELEBRATION of TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE

SUNG RESPONSE

Jesus, I Live to You

**Jesus, I live to You, the loveliest and best
My life will be Your life in me, in Your blessed love I rest.**

DEDICATION

Let our one, precious, and wild life this week be let loose trusting in the truth of Your unconditional love and unceasing grace. For we know deep in our bones that if we can live this way, You, O God will hold the rest. Amen.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He is our peace; in His flesh He has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So He came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through Him both of us have access in one Spirit to God. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In Him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

SERMON

Re-building Life

HYMN

O Praise The Gracious Power

**O praise the gracious power that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near.
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**

**O praise persistent truth that opens fist-ed minds
and eases from their anxious clutch the prejudice that blinds:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**

**O praise inclusive love, encircling every race,
oblivious to gender, wealth, to social rank or place:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**

**O praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
a living temple built on Christ, our rock and cornerstone:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

#400

**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the Head and Cornerstone,
chosen of our God and precious, binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call You, come, O God of hosts, today!
With Your constant lovingkindness, hear Your people as they pray.
Give Your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the Way.**

**Here renew Your servant's vision, that by faith they may attain
peace and hope, renewed compassion, strength to comfort those in pain,
Tears and grief transformed to gladness in Your everlasting reign.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lobe den Herren

Eric Thiman

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

USHERS: Gib & Jeannie Mitchell

SONG LEADER: Carol Fields