

Flowers given by: Bill & Pat Grubb, in memory of their son, **Jeffrey Grubb.**

PRELUDE

I Vow to Thee My Country
Cynthia Roberts-Greene, organist

Thaxted/Holst

CALL to WORSHIP

One: For faith like fireworks that light up the night sky;

Many: **We worship God who is like a spark that burns brightly within and around us.**

One: For God's love that appears in dazzling ways that delight us.

Many: **God let Your glory evoke and provoke our "oohs" and "aahs".**

One: For God's grace that meets us where we are,

Many: **God of all to You we raise, this our hymn of prayer and praise!**

*OPENING HYMN

This Is My Song

#591

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; But other hearts, in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine; But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

*OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, we arrive at the halfway point of this year. On this first Sunday of July, we pause to rewind and recall some of what has filled our days. We celebrate times when we have felt Your love and grace. We name aloud experiences and encounters when we came to our senses in Your presence:

Name aloud moments of God's grace so far this year.

We hold times when struggle, stress, and strain described our days. We know these realities impact the story we tell ourselves. There are times when clouds of worry overcast our souls. For all that is unresolved within life, we name where we long for You to enter our hearts anew and afresh.

Name where you long for God's love to enter with caring and creativity.

On this Fourth of July weekend, we pray for our country, state, and community. Amid the cacophony of voices that point out all that is broken; the polarization; the anger; amid all that stirs uneasy in our minds and hearts, we pray for our leaders. We pray for those who frustrate us and those we fear. We pray especially for ourselves, what we have said

and left unsaid; hurt we have caused and those we blame. God, we need Your wisdom to interrupt and intercede here in this moment.

Silence.

Amid the diversity of Your people gathered here today, we join our varied voices in Christ's prayer that sings to each of our hearts:

*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.

*SUNG RESPONSE

O God, How We Have Wandered

**O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.**

**And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:25-32

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then the elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

SERMON

Prodigal-ing Part Two

ANTHEM

And the Father Will Dance

Mark Hayes

CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

One: The Holy One be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Open your heart to the One whose unceasing and unconditional love makes all the difference.

Many: We fling open our hearts, imaginations, and whole lives to God.

One: We celebrate God's prodigal grace that is always enough for everyone.

Many: We taste at Christ's table the truth that there is a place set for all.

SHARING the GIFTS of GOD with the PEOPLE of GOD

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

#459

**Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon on it, mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE

God of the Ages
Cynthia Roberts-Greene, organist

National Hymn/Thewes

Greeters: Sara Little & Gregg Matthews & Gib Mitchell

Liturgist: Jane Hunder