

Flowers given by: Diane Miller and Margo Light in honor of August birthdays

PRELUDE *Land of Rest* George Shearing
CALL to WORSHIP *Singing the Story* by Susan Palo Cherwin
*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.**

**You are called to set the table, blessing bread as Jesus blessed,
Then to come with thirst and hunger, needing care like all the rest.
Christ be known in all our sharing, feeding all with signs 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

Journey God, You are always with us. You cannot be confined or contained in this sanctuary but burst forth from this place. We give thanks for the prayer of Ruth who sang the truth of Your unconditional love: “Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people.” Carve and create a spacious place for us to breathe and be. Awaken and attune our hearts to the people who travel life’s road with us right now. For the person beside, behind, and before us in the pew, thank you. For the person at the doctor’s office and grocery store, thank you. Even for the other cars on the road, thank you. Be with us as we honor the “Ruths” in our life whose presence makes all the difference and daily leave their fingerprints upon our hearts. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE *Let It Breathe on Me* #288

**Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the breath of the Spirit breathe on me.
Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the breath of God now breathe on me.**

**While I’m working, God, in your vineyard here, I cannot serve without you near;
O come, blessed Spirit, so close to me that I may feel you breathe on me.**

**When the pathway, God, I cannot see, when the way is hard, O breathe on me;
Give me grace to know when you are near, then, I pray, O Spirit, breath on me.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE *Ruth 1, selected verses*

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The

name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ Both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" ¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

SERMON

Harmony "Me" moving to "We"

RESPONSE

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

#539

**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.**

ANTHEM

The Lone, Wild Bird

Ruth Elaine Schram

**The lone, wild bird in lofty flight is still with you, nor leaves your sight.
And I am yours! I rest in you. Great Spirit, come and rest in me, too.
Each secret thought is known to you, the path I walk my whole life through;
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears, my deepest joys, my silent tears.**

**The ends of earth are in your hand, the sea's dark deep, and far off land.
And I am yours! I rest in you. Great Spirit, come and rest in me, too.
Great Spirit, come and rest in me, too.**

PASTORAL PRAYER and 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 *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

#493

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

**O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will!**

**O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!**

**O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Plein jeu

Francois Comperin