

Flowers given by: Margo Light and Richard & Carol Rescigno,
in celebration of the **dedicated staff and volunteers of our church**

PRELUDE

Holy Manna

Dale Wood

Cynthia Roberts-Greene, guest organist

CALL to WORSHIP

One: I let out a shout for joy when the invitation came to worship God,

Many: **Our souls leapt with anticipation for this moment of prayer and praise.**

One: Here in this very room and at this time,

Many: **We open our imaginations to the One whose creativity and love makes all the difference.**

One: We gather as God's people to re-orient our lives to a presence that enfolds and holds us.

Many: **It is good to be here. Alleluia and Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

#556

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;
We, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

**We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
Facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.**

**As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us a new,
Children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

*OPENING PRAYER

God of creativity and creation, God who forms and fashions us, You breathe life into us and awaken our souls. From the beginning, Your prayer was for connection. You gave the first human a place and purpose. You recognized and realized that to be an isolated individual was not the way to thrive or survive. You rolled up Your sleeves seeking to find collaborators and cooperators and companions. We pause for a moment this morning to hold in our hearts those whose love makes all the difference.

Silence to name family and friends.

We live in a time when we are not the "we" you call us to be. We struggle with how to walk the tightrope between ourselves and others There is a tension that technology has made us more connected, yet we are lonelier than ever. There is a tension that we want to make others in *our* image. Help us, O God, enter the classroom of relationships with an open heart, life, and mind. Help us, O God, be honest that we never fully graduate or

learn everything there is to know about sharing our lives with others. We pause in this holy place and in Your presence to name people we struggle to love.

Silence to name people who frustrate you.

Hear our prayer, O God. Open our hearts to Your wisdom and way. Transform us with Your truth for the living of this hour and every hour this week. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Glory to God the Creator

#754

**Glory to God the Creator, and to Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.
Amen. Amen.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2, *selected verses*

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the Lord God formed Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life, and Adam became a living being. ⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, put Adam there. ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that Adam should be alone; I will make a helper, partner.” ¹⁹ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to Adam and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ Adam gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but there was not found a helper, partner. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, then took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from Adam God made into another human.

SERMON

Moving from “Me” to “We”

ANTHEM

We Sing the Mighty Power of God

arr. Hal Hopson

CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

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.

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GOD WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*CLOSING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

#332

**As we gather are your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us, with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.**

**Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Linstead

Mark Sedio

Cynthia Roberts-Greene, guest organist