

Sept. 27, 2009, 9:15 am - Fresh Spirit Worship - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"I see the God in you. I greet the God in you."

Bill Wallace, New Zealand

As we gather for worship,
please introduce yourself to those around you.
There are no strangers in God's house.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Wonderful, Merciful Savior* Eric Weis/Dawn Thomas

Wonderful, merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and friend
Who would have thought that a lamb could
Rescue the souls of men
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way

(Refrain)
You are the one that we praise
You are the one we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for

Almighty, infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

(Refrain)

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WELCOME

REFLECTION FOR PEACE

GATHERING THE PEOPLE

One: The God of creation made the first day.

All: *The sun rises, and the sun sets.*

One: Joseph counted the days in his prison cell.

David was inspired by beauty of the sky and wrote psalms.

All: *The sun rises, and the sun sets.*

One: Mary prayed at sunset until morning when she could go to Jesus' tomb. We, like Mary, watch the days pass one by one.

All: *The sun rises, and the sun sets.*

One: We enter into the night and trust that God will keep us safe.

All: *The sun rises, and the sun sets.*

One: God will give us rest. God will give us peace of mind.

All: *The sun rises, and the sun sets.*

One: Let us worship God!

OPENING SONG (see insert) *Shout To the North* Martin Smith

LITANY OF LIFE

One: You meet us, O God, at every place along the highway of life.

All: *You meet us at life's beginning – smiling and vulnerable.*

One: You meet us as children, growing and exploring, yet laughing and teasing as we go.

All: *You meet us as young adults, finding our feet, maturing and searching for values.*

One: You meet us as parents, with all the responsibility, joy, and frustration that comes with parenthood.

All: *You meet us in the autumn of our days, with wisdom, yet with increasing infirmity.*

One: You meet us, O God, at every stage in life, for you are a trusted and sustaining presence.

All: *Yet we know you remain always ahead of us – the source of hope and the essence of eternity.*

Praise be to your name, Living God, Parent of Jesus! Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

(Children are invited to go to Sunday School)

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 12:1-9 TANAKH

The Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land I will show you."

I will make of you a great nation,
And I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
And you shall be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you
And curse him that curses you;
And all the families of the earth
Shall bless themselves by you.

Abram went forth as the Lord had commanded him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the wealth that they had amassed, and the persons that they had acquired in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, at the terebinth of Moreh. The Canaanites were then in the land.

The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I will assign this land to your heirs. " And he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and he built there an altar to the Lord and invoked the Lord by name. Then Abram journeyed by stages toward Negeb.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERING SONG (see insert) *You Will Find Me In Your Heart* David Haas

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SERMON *The Journey of Life: The Latter Years* Rev. Thomas D. York

FOCUS SONG (see insert) *I Will Have Faith In You* Sarah Hart/Sam Mizell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG *Grateful* Tom Tomaszek

*Grateful for the life you give us,
Thankful for your Holy Son,
Joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
Thankful for your Holy Word,
Joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.*

You are more than we imagine,
Ancient, Holy, Living Lord.
Even when we doubt your presence
You are faithful to your Word.

(Refrain)

May our lives proclaim your justice,
May our voices sing your praise.
May our hands work in your service
To the glory of your name.

(Refrain)

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BLESSING THE PEOPLE

Sources for today's liturgy: Gathering - Adapted from *The Book of Uncommon Prayer*, Steven L. Case; Renewing the Covenant - *Prayers to Share, Year C*, David Sparks.

Thanks to Kristen Annett and Alex Castle for serving as liturgists for this morning's service.

If you feel called to serve God by researching, writing or speaking liturgy in future services, please feel free to talk with any of the worship leaders or drop a note in the offering plate.

Fresh Spirit Prayer Request cards and offering envelopes are available in the black fellowship pad folders. If you have a prayer request, concern or joy you wish to share, please fill out a card and place it in the offering bags. All concerns and joys are welcome!

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