

January 24, 2010, 9:15 am—Fresh Spirit

“I see the God in you. I greet the God in you.”

Bill Wallace, New Zealand

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

CALL TO WORSHIP      *Wonderful, Merciful Savior*      E. Weis/D.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: Prepare us for our journey, O God;

All: *give us the courage to venture into the challenging places of heart and spirit.*

One: Come with us on our journey, O God;

All: *strengthen us that we might learn and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.*

One: Join us with others on our journey, O God;

All: *in faithful solidarity, we will search out dark forces of oppression and defeat them with the light of Jesus Christ.*

One: Be with us at the end of our journey, O God;

All: *that at the foot of the cross we might look up and understand your wonderful love. Amen.*

OPENING SONG (see insert) *With All Our Hearts*      Jesse Manibusan

RENEWING THE COVENANT

One: O God, we seek a new beginning. Gracefully grant us the gift of careful reflection.

Where we have harboured bitterness,

All: *give us the ability to put into words our deepest feelings.*

One: Where we have nursed grudges,

All: *give us the strength to let them go.*

One: Where we have lacked the courage of our convictions,

All: *give us the ability to stand up and be counted.*

One: Where we have failed to work with others in community,

All: *give us the sense of joy in a common cause.*

One: Where we have questioned our life of faith,

All: *give us the insight to turn doubts into fresh commitment.*

One: Your grace is sufficient for us, O God. Gracefully grant us a new vision.

All: *A vision of friendships deepened;  
a vision of care, for ourselves and our relationships;  
a vision of renewed service within the faith community;  
a vision of a world where your realm is worked into reality.*

---Time of silent reflection---

One: As we let go of the past, O God, enable us to face the future with confidence:

All: *ready to be open to new truths, ready to renew our faith in Jesus Christ.*

One: The peace of Christ is yours.

PASSING THE PEACE

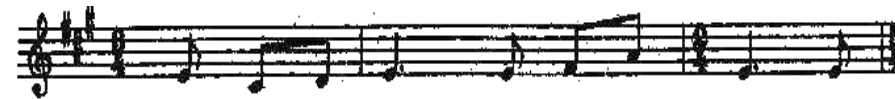
TIME WITH CHILDREN

OFFERING OUR GIFTS BACK TO GOD

OFFERTORY SONG      *We Walk By Faith*      H. Alford/M. Haugen

DOXOLOGY

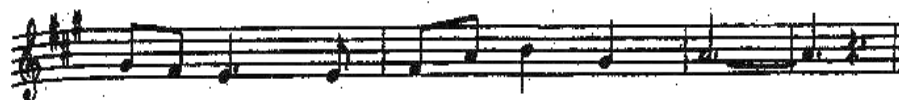
*We thank you God for all you have given.*



1. We walk by faith, and not by sight: No  
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor  
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief, And  
4. That when our life of faith is done In



gra - cious words we hear Of him who spoke as  
fol - low where he trod; Yet in his prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound; To call on you when  
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve him near.  
we re - joice, And cry "My Lord and God!"  
you are near, And seek where you are found:  
as you are In full and end - less sight.

*Now we return a portion to you -  
For all that we have, and all that we are,  
We bring our gifts, and thank you God for life.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING      Mark 9:14-29      NRSV

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”

SERMON      *The Sacred Journey — Unbelief*      Rev. Jana Reister

FOCUS SONG (see insert)      *Shifting Sand*      Aaron Tate

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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, for ever. Amen.*

CLOSING SONG (see insert)      *Able*      Sarah Hart

BLESSING THE PEOPLE

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Sources for today’s liturgy: Gathering - David Sparks, *Prayers to Share, Year B*; Renewing the Covenant - David Sparks, *Prayers to Share, Year A*.

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!

