

PRELUDE

GREETING & GATHERING

“The Peace of Wild Things” by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

...

We wait together for the Lord. We trust the Lord also waits with us. God promises peace with justice, goodness and forgiveness.
Let us pause and enjoy these moments; let us open wide our hearts to wait and see how the Lord will work in our days.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We wait with hope,
for God's promises are sure.
We wait with patience,
for God's time is a mystery.
Come and worship the Lord of miracles and majesty;
we will wait upon the Lord together.

HYMN - GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH 127

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

PRAYER

The sustaining presence of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Holy God of mystery and miracles, reveal your presence to us, as we gather in worship. Send your Holy Spirit to descend upon us, as angels once descended to Jacob. Raise our thoughts and our trust that we may reflect on your promises and that we may hope in your promises yet to come.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE - SURELY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD 328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in they place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

THE RED STEPS

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE - GENESIS 28:10-19
CHORAL OFFERING - *Jacob's Ladder*

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11** He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. **12** And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; **14** and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. **15** Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." **16** Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" **17** And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. **19** He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

HOMILY

Ups and Downs (What doesn't have its ups and downs?)



ANTHEM

INVITATION

HYMN - STAND UP AND BLESS THE LORD 662

1. Stand up and bless the Lord,
ye people of his choice;
stand up and bless the Lord your God
with heart and soul and voice.

2. Though high above all praise,
above all blessing high,
who would not fear his holy name,
and laud and magnify?

3. O for the living flame
from his own altar brought,
to touch our lips, our minds inspire,
and wing to heaven our thought!

4. God is our strength and song,
and his salvation ours;
then be his love in Christ proclaimed
with all our ransomed powers.

5. Stand up and bless the Lord;
the Lord your God adore;
stand up and bless his glorious name,
henceforth forevermore.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE