

PRELUDE

GREETING & GATHERING

The Lord God can turn even our worst moments into possibilities for good.
The Holy One can transform even our worst experiences into opportunities for grace.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our eternal God visits us, even in our dreams. God offers us glimpses of a future with hope.

God joins us in life's storms and guides us through raging waters.

May the living God be with us now, as we offer our gifts for worship.

May the God of all life and love bless us with courage to spread the good news of God's enduring help.

HYMN - ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING UMH 62 (verses 1-5)

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!

O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. O brother wind, air, clouds, and rain,
by which all creatures ye sustain,
O praise ye! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O brother fire who lights the night,
providing warmth, enhancing sight,
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them God's glory also show!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

5. All ye who are of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O praise ye! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care!
O praise ye! O praise ye!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER

The guiding love of our all-merciful God be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together: **God of infinite possibilities, without your help we are powerless to get where we need to go. Grant us a deeper trust in your presence; inspire us to have the confidence of Joseph to live as dreamers, even when the world turns against us and against your promise of peace with justice. And urge us to serve in ways that may always be found faithful and fruitful.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE - GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY UMH 577 (verses 1 & 4)

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

THE RED STEPS

THE OFFERING

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

37 Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. **2** This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. **3** Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. **4** But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

12 Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. **13** And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." **14** So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, **15** and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" **16** "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." **17** The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. **18** They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. **19** They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. **20** Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." **21** But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." **22** Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. **23** So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; **24** and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. **26** Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? **27** Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. **28** When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

HOMILY

ANTHEM

INVITATION

HYMN - PRAISE THE LORD WHO REIGNS ABOVE UMH 96

1 Praise the Lord who reigns above
and keeps His courts below;
praise the holy God of love,
and all His greatness show.
Praise Him for His noble deeds,
praise Him for His matchless power;
Him from whom all good proceeds
let earth and heaven adore.

2 Celebrate th'eternal God
with harp and psaltery;
timbrels soft and cymbals loud
in His high praise agree.
Praise Him, every tuneful string;
all the reach of heavenly art,
all the powers of music bring,
the music of the heart.

3 Him, in whom they move and live,
let every creature sing,
glory to their Maker give,
and homage to their King.
Hallowed be His name beneath,
as in heaven, on earth adored;
praise the Lord in every breath,
let all things praise the LORD!

BENEDICTION

Go in Peace,

Stand firm in you faith.

Be strong. Be brave.

Let everything you do be done in love.

POSTLUDE