

PRELUDE

GREETING & GATHERING

Seek the living God, who rescues and saves us in times of trouble.

Seek the loving God, who renews us, transforms us, and strengthens us in our hour of need.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We hold these minutes away from places of work and the busyness of buying and selling; we step into the invitation to join the living God, to be present to God's presence.

Our help is in the name of the living God, maker of heaven and earth.

We turn away from the world and its patterns of power that often hurt, trap, and swallow us up.

We stand before our Savior, the God of mercy, who rescues and renews us.

We come to this time seeking the living God, maker of heaven and earth.

We present ourselves to the Lord of life, our God who is compassionate and merciful, and we offer our presence as a living and pleasing offering.

HYMN - PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN UMH 66

**1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to the throne thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore God's praises sing.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the everlasting King.

**2. Praise the Lord for grace and favor
to all people in distress;
praise God, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glorious now God's faithfulness.

**3. Father-like, God tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame God knows;
mother-like, God gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Widely yet God's mercy flows.

**4. Angels in the heights, adoring,
you behold God face to face;
saints triumphant, now adoring,
gathered in from every race.**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise with us the God of grace.

PRAYER

The strength and mercy of our Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together:

Make of all creation, we come from different places with our own place on this journey. Some of us have succeeded in our work and feel we have achieved high standing. Some of us have failed and need reassurance that you are with us. Some of us feel trapped and helpless. Some of us have escaped hard times and feel great relief. No matter what our situation is, we come now to meet you in worship. Remind us of your power and mercy. Replenish our courage and vision. Renew our identity as your people. Refresh our holy work in this world, for our help is in your name alone, Holy God, maker of heaven and earth.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE - LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING UMH 384 (verse 3 & 4)

**Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy
life receive; suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be
always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and
praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then, thy new creation; pure and spotless
let us be. Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory
into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we
cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

The Food Pantry

THE RED STEPS

THE OFFERING

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8-2:10

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. **9** He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. **10** Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." **11** Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. **12** But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. **13** The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, **14** and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, **16** "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." **17** But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. **18** So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" **19** The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." **20** So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. **21** And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. **22** Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three

months. **3** When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. **4** His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. **6** When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. **7** Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" **8** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. **9** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. **10** When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

HOMILY

Saving the Lives of Men Since Forever



ANTHEM

INVITATION

HYMN - LORD, WHOSE LOVE THROUGH HUMBLE SERVICE UMH 581

Lord, whose love through humble service
 Bore the weight of human need,
 Who upon the cross forsaken,
 offered mercy's perfect deed:
 We, your servants bring the worship
 Not of voice alone but heart,
 Consecrating to Your purpose
 Every gift that You impart

Still Your children wander homeless;
 Still the hungry cry for bread;
 Still the captives long for freedom;
 Still in grief we mourn our dead.
 As, O Lord, in deep compassion
 Healed the sick and freed the soul,
 use the love your Spirit kindles
 still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision
 Till Your love's revealing light
 In its height and depth and greatness
 Dawns upon our quicken sight,
 Making known the needs and burdens
 Your compassion bids us bear,
 Stirring us to tireless striving
 Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,
 forth in your dear name we go
 to the child, the youth, the aged,
 love in living deeds to show;
 hope and health good will and comfort,
 counsel, aid, and peace we give,
 that you servants Lord, in freedom
 may your mercy know, and live

BENEDICTION

Go in Peace

**Stand Firm in your Faith. Be Strong. Be Brave.
 Let Everything You Do Be Done in Love.**

POSTLUDE