

PRELUDE

GREETING & GATHERING

*Be a precious
donor of compassion,
kindness, calmness
and hope.*

*Give peace to
all you meet,
including yourself.*

*Be present with all
you encounter.*

*So many in this world are
anxious, afraid, torn apart by forces
deeper, larger, more vast
than they or I can imagine.*

*One act of calm kindness
genuinely given from the human heart
is bread for thousands.*

(by W. Craig Gilliam, 2018)

...

*The love of God brings peace to our lives. The forgiveness of God brings mercy to our world.
As we gather to fulfill the work of holy love, Christ is here to make us whole. .*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you heard the good news?

Christ calls us to be people of light.

Have you felt the good news?

Christ offers us God's love and grace.

Have you lived the good news?

Christ lives in us when we gather in his name.

Come! Let us worship the Lord.

HYMN - IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE UMH 103

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and
love.

3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

PRAYER

The forgiving presence of Jesus Christ, our Savior, be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray: **Loving God, lead us now to let loose your grace in all our relationships. Cover us with your peace that our wounds might heal. Open our spirits to those with whom we disagree or where the fabric of community is troubled. And open our hearts to those most in need: The unemployed parent worried about feeding her or his children. The woman who is underpaid, harassed or abused. The Black man or woman who fears for their lives. The immigrant at the border, longing for safety. The homeless person looking for a meal. The LGBTQ teen who is bullied. The unborn child in the womb. The inmate on death row. Help us to be a nation where every life is sacred, all people are loved, and all are welcome. Amen.***

*Adapted from Fr. James Martin (Ignatian Solidarity Network)

RESPONSE - COME, MY WAY, MY TRUTH, MY LIFE UMH 164 (verses 1 & 2)

**Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as
gives us breath, such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.**

**Come my Lifth, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as
shows a feast, such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.**

THE RED STEPS

THE OFFERING

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:15-20

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you’ve won over your brother or sister. But if they won’t listen, take with you one or two others so that *every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses*. But if they still won’t pay attention, report it to the church. If they won’t pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”

HOMILY

“So, This Is Church?”



ANTHEM

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. And free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(silent confession)

Pardon

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; this proves God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

... And so with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

... And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and wherever we are in this moment, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. **Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread & the Cup

INVITATION

HYMN - SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING UMH 348

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3. Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me. [Refrain]

4. O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

Go in Peace

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

POSTLUDE