

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Words John W. Howell

One: Laugh! Children of God!
Let tears of joy baptize your eyes and your cheeks.
Give God thanks and celebrate!

Many: It is great to be alive!

One: Dance! Children of God!
Lose yourself in the choreography of the Spirit.
Life is a dance and God is the orchestra.

Many: It's great to be alive!

One: Embrace! Children of God!
Open your arms and feel close to each other.
It is in our openness where life takes on meaning.
It's good to be alive!
Give God thanks and celebrate!

Many: It's great to be alive!

Opening Hymn Binder # 25 "Lord of All Hopefulness"

Prayer of Invocation Terence Elwyn Johnson (adapted)

Eternal God, parent of every living creature, whose spirit of love is celebrated in our worship, be with us God. Be our nurturing guide and strengthening tenderness, that we may grow and serve in ways of trust, compassion, and purposeful living. Be with us God. Amen

Musical Response: Binder #21 "What Does the Lord Require of You?"

Children's Time

Word in Song: Lola Contestabile & Friends

Sacred Readings:

Luke 18:15-17 Cotton Patch Version

Some folks started bringing their babies to him to bless, and his students jumped on them for it. Jesus then gathered the little ones around him and said, “Let the kids come to me and don’t get in their way, for of such is the God Movement. I truly tell you that unless one accepts the God Movement like a child, they just won’t get into it.”

attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation
in realizing that. This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well. It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
Amen.

For the wisdom contained in these holy words we give thanks. Amen.

Sermon Rev. Wendy Bruner

Hymn Binder #26 “Do Not Turn Away the Children”

Prayers of the People (Lord’s Prayer in front of binder)

How Shall We Do God’s Work in the World

Binder #20 “This Little Light of Mine”

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we give thanks.
We ask your blessings on these gifts of time,
talent, and treasure as we use them to do
God’s work in the world. Amen

Hymn Hymnal #82 “Go My Children, with My Blessing”

Benediction

Postlude