

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

## **Opening Words** Christine Rohloff

Response: Shout for joy.

There is joy in community when we worship together: work for justice, are the church.

### **Shout for joy.**

There is joy in the ordinary times: the smiles of children, a good cup of coffee, tea, the smell of fresh baked bread, sunrises, sunsets.

### **Shout for joy.**

There is joy in doing justice: when we march, gather petitions, dance and chant with a scholar, live as good stewards of the earth.

### **Shout for joy.**

There is joy in the unexpected: notes from a friend, flowers for no reason, sun when rain is predicted.

### **Shout for joy.**

There is joy in the struggle: the touch of a friend, a kind word, a hand held.

### **Shout for joy.**

There is joy in who you are: the finishing of a project, doing a task well, learning a new thing, in being who we are.

### **Shout for joy.**

**Opening Hymn** Hymnal #172 “Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult”

**Prayer of Invocation** adapted Paul B. Robinson

As we end another busy week in our lives, we come before you, O God, knowing that you are always ready to receive us, shortcomings and all. We take time out to consider how our lives might better reflect your broad view of life, your forgiving spirit, your wisdom, your creativity, your patience. Today we consider what it means to live abundantly. You call us to inspiring, difficult, and sometimes frightening missions to bring your realm into our midst. You challenge us to have courage in the face of possible ridicule and failure. Bring us to new life that the spirit might be magnified in each of us. Amen

**Musical Response:** Binder #18 “Make Us One”

**Children’s Time**

**Word in Song:** Karen Gilbert

**Sacred Reading:**

**Acts 9:1-9**

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The reply came, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’ The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

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

**Sermon** Jen Einspahr

**Hymn** Binder #16 “The Summons”

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

**Communion**

**Minister:** As we gather around the table to be nourished by this meal we remember that this is not our table this is God's table and that means all are welcome at this table. The bread is gluten free and there is grape juice in the cup.

Gathering around the table as we celebrate life together we remember so many stories shared around tables;

**Liturgist:** Tables where bread is broken and cup is poured out, where families gather and generations share, where stories are remembered, refined, reshaped.

**Minister:** Gathering around the table this morning, we break the bread and touch the mystery that in our brokenness we become whole;

**Liturgist:** We fill the cup and remember the abundance discovered in each new sharing of our sacred stories. Together, around the table, we pray:

**Many:** Come, Holy Spirit, come.  
Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.  
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking  
that our eyes might be opened,  
that we might recognize the risen Christ  
in our midst, indeed, in one another.  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

**Response Binder #36** "Peace, Salaam, Shalom"

**Pray of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love by bringing us to this meal.

We go from here renewed in faith, renewed in courage,

and strengthened by your presence.

Thank you for loving us so tenderly.

Thank you for challenging us

to know you better and to receive you more fully. Amen

**How Shall We Do God's Work in the World**

Binder #30 "Halle, Halle"

**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

Your work in the world. Amen

**Hymn** Binder #37 "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

**Benediction**

**Postlude**