Prelude  “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”  
Jason Payne  
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Welcome

Opening Words  adapted Snadra E. Graham  
One:  We have been called to walk the faithful road and to choose the way of God’s justice.  

Many:  God is good.  
One:  Come together, then, to be God’s people. Follow Christ and listen for the good things that God has done. Rise up in praise and thanksgiving!  

Many:  God is good.  
One:  We will share with others the goodness that we have found in God. May our lives be an expression of that goodness.  

Many:  God is good.

Opening Response  "Fearfully, Wonderfully Made"  
Nathan Crabtree/Eric Whitehill

You were known,  
When you walk,  
known before redemption.  
walk through the flame.  

woven deep,  
God is there,  
deep in the earth.  
calling your name.  

You were formed,  
Now embrace what God said,  
from stardust. Sing praise!  
"Do not be afraid." You are  

You are  
You are  
You are  
You are  

fearfully, wonderfully made  
fearfully, wonderfully made  
fearfully, wonderfully made  
Yes you are  
Yes you are  
Yes you are  

fearfully, wonderfully made.
Prayer of Invocation  Maren C. Tirabassi  
Merciful God, Just God, Faithful God, God of blessing and God of our most difficult times, we come to you for a moment of quiet in our self-made busyness. We come to you for energy in our weariness. We come to you for challenge when we are willing to settle for our own small plans and dreams. We long for the peace of your presence, even as we are afraid of the urgency of your call. Enter, Spirit of God, into each of our lives and enliven us; enter, Spirit of God, into our community and enable us to love and serve you and all your children. Amen

Word in Song  Loretta Haggard "Humoreske”
Anton Dvorak
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Sacred Text  
Psalm 139

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.  
3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.  
4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.  
5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.  
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.  
7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?  
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,”  
12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.  
13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.  
14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.  
15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.  
17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!  
18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end[a]—I am still with you.
“Sometimes small gestures can have unexpected consequences. Major initiatives practically guarantee them. In our time, few pieces of federal legislation rank in significance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. There, in Title VII, Congress outlawed discrimination in the workplace on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Today, we must decide whether an employer can fire someone simply for being homosexual or transgender. The answer is clear. An employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex. Sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, exactly what Title VII forbids.

Those who adopted the Civil Rights Act might not have anticipated their work would lead to this particular result. Likely, they weren’t thinking about many of the Act’s consequences that have become apparent over the years, including its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of motherhood or its ban on the sexual harassment of male employees. But the limits of the drafters’ imagination supply no reason to ignore the law’s demands. When the express terms of a statute give us one answer and extratextual considerations suggest another, it’s no contest. Only the written word is the law, and all persons are entitled to its benefit.”

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

Sermon Rev. Al Schon
Hymn “For Everyone Born”
Text: Shirley Mann
Alt. Text: Christopher Grundy

For everyone born, a place at the table,
For all genders made, a place at the table,
For each race and land, a place at the table,
For each way to love, a place at the table,

for everyone born, clean water and bread;
revising the roles, deciding the share,
enriching the feast with language and song,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,

a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
new flavors for some, a refuge for many,
a rainbow of ways to incarnate caring,

for everyone born, a star overhead. And
for all genders made, a system that’s fair.
for each race and land, the welcome of home.
for each way to love, the chalice of grace,

God will delight when we are creators of justice and
joy, compassion and peace: yes God will delight when we are cre
a-tors of jus-tice just-ice and joy.
Joys and Concerns

Prayer
Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

How Shall We Join God’s Work in the World
Gracious God, we give thanks. We ask your blessings on these gifts of time, talent, and treasure as we use them to join Your work in the world. Amen

Closing

Postlude “Trumpet Tune”
Jerry McCroy
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