



Prelude Sue Clauss: “Beach Spring” (from Sacred Harp), setting by Wilbur Held; published in *7 Settings of American Folk Hymns* (1984) Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House

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 good 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 good 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.
Give God thanks and celebrate!

Many: It's good to be alive!

Opening Hymn Binder #81 “Do Not Turn Away the Children”

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. Be our nurturing guide and strengthening tenderness, that we may grow and serve in ways of trust, compassion, and purposeful living. **Amen**

Opening Response Binder #6 "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"

Children's Time

The Witness of Music Sue Clauss

Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Holy One shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Holy One.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Holy One.

She shall not judge by what her eyes see,
or decide by what her ears hear;
but with righteousness she shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Holy One
as the waters cover the sea.

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

Sermon Rev. Dr. Wendy Bruner

Hymn Binder # 37 "Strong, Gentle Children"

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 and ask your blessings on the many and diverse gifts we bring to join you in your work in the world.

Closing Hymn NCH #82 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Benediction

Postlude Sue Clauss: "Simple Gifts" (Shaker tune), setting by Wilbur Held; published in *7 Settings of American Folk Hymns* (1984) Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House

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