*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

**GATHERING. . .**

The Prelude

_Siciliano_  
_D. Scarlatti, arr. Lani Smith_

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit  
* * *  
_I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*  
(from Micah 6:1-8)

How can we stand up before God and show proper respect?  
It’s simple.  Hear what the Lord says:  
**Do Justice.**

Hear what the Lord says:  
**Do what is fair and just to your neighbor;**  
**be compassionate and loyal in love.**

Hear what the Lord says:  
**Be humble in Spirit.**

God has told us what the Lord requires of us.  Let us do it.

The Prayer of Adoration

Almighty God, source of all life, Your wisdom is beyond our understanding.  You choose what is foolish in the world to knock down those who think themselves wise.  Your ways challenge the ways of the world by anointing the poor, the meek, the mourners, and those who seek after righteousness.  You lift up the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and the persecuted, even going so far as to call them “blessed.”  Confounded by Your goodness and astonished by Your grace, we ask that Your Spirit would fall afresh on us in this hour of worship.  Move us to see the world and its people as You do.  Amen.

*The Hymn 403  
_Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*  

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer; O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light and grace.

Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me; where we find thee and adore thee, there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O enter thou; let it be thy temple now.

Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done indeed; may I undisturbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy people feed.  Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

*The Prayer of Confession*  
By Joanne Carlson Brown

Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world.  We have not spoken truth with our hearts.  We have said and done hurtful things to our friends.  We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours.  We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds.  We have forgotten what true discipleship is.  And because of this, you have a quarrel with us.  Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be:  people of justice and love and truth and humility, and yes, even foolishness.  May we be fools for Christ, embracing our true identity, even in the face of the world’s scorn and derision.

*Words of Assurance*  
By Joanne Carlson Brown

God has called us and blesses us

when we live God’s ways and not the world’s.  
God’s love embraces us

even when we fall short of what God desires for our lives and actions.

Know that the God of blessing loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness.

And in so knowing, may our lives and souls be transformed.  Amen.
*The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

Lead us, O God, by the power of Your Spirit. Open our minds to hear Your scripture the way You desire for us to hear it, that by Your Word, we may be transformed – and through us, Your whole creation. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 15 p. 609 in the pew Bible

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12 p. 4 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

Blessed Are You

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God;
Blessed are you who now weep, for you will laugh.
Blessed are you who are meek, for you will inherit the earth.
Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.
Blessed are you, blessed are you, my children.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.
Blessed are you who are merciful, for you will inherit the earth.
Blessed are you who are pure in heart, for you will see God.
Blessed are you who make peace, for you will be called the children of God.
Blessed are you who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for yours is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you, blessed are you, my children.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.
Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, and when they revile you,
And when they defame you on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice in that day and leap for joy for surely your reward is great in heaven

The Epistle Lesson: I Corinthians 1:18-31 p. 202 in the pew Bible

*The Hymn 372

O for a World

O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.
We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.
The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

The Old Testament Lesson: Micah 6:1-8 p. 1060 in the pew Bible

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

What Is Required Elizabeth Snader

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD. . .

*The Apostles’ Creed p. 35 in the Hymnal

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by
The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH AND SERVING IN GOD'S NAME... *
The Hymn 298

Lord, You Give the Great Commission (verses, 1, 2, 5)

Lord, you give the great commission: “Heal the sick and preach the word.
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: “In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude

Little Trumpet Tune in G

Please be seated in personal reflection until the Postlude ends.

Elizabeth Snader is a pastor in the United Methodist Church and has a passion for helping others develop and deepen faith. She and her husband, Eric, moved to Fredericksburg in July 2019 and she has enjoyed working for the CCC and the greater community of the University of Mary Washington. She would describe herself as a creative person who loves connecting with people.

Flowers are given today in thankfulness for this new year and in the spirit of Psalm 133:1. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

Today’s Worship Leaders:
Preacher: Elizabeth Snader
Liturgists: Ashley Raska, Eric Snader
Choir Masters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey
Organist: Amy Shirk

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