



## GATHERING PRAYER

God, the encourager, God, the compassionate,  
God, the merciful, holy, blessed:

Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep.  
Lift us into consciousness of your presence.  
Change us, move us, mold us for the better;  
So that, at the sound of your voice  
At the call of our name  
We will never be the same.

May this worship do this and so much more, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Called to follow Christ, we are called to a life of humility.  
But what does that even mean?

Do we seek to exalt ourselves - to be lifted above others?  
Does our sense of success depend on someone else's failure?  
Does our love of God entirely guide our relationships?  
Do we twist service into convenience and leisure,  
ignoring the idea that to serve is to be a servant?

*Silence*

Let us pray:

**People: Disturb the habits of our sin, O God.  
Rouse us from the sleep that cradles sin's embrace.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray -  
Show us your ways  
Highlight what we can change

**People: And change what we cannot.**

*Silence*

## \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Good friends:  
God is at work in you!  
God is alive in us!  
God lives - but sin is dead.  
And our sins are forgiven,  
through Christ, our Savior.

**People: Alleluia! Amen.**

## GLORIA PATRI Tune: GREATOREX

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, Amen.

## ENGAGING THE WORD

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:23-32

SERMON

“Just Words or Actions?”

\*HYMN

“For Beauty of the Meadows”

For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees,  
for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,  
for all you created and gave us to share,  
we praise you, Creator, extolling you care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand,  
as creatures who hear your most urgent command,  
we turn from our wasteful destruction of life,  
confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace;  
all nature around us is ours but on lease;  
your name we would hallow in all that we do,  
fulfilling our calling creating with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

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 trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*BENEDICTION

The sweet Spirit of God has blessed us! Let us give thanks.  
People: **Thank you!**

The great Spirit of God will guide us! Let us give thanks.  
People: **Thank you!**

The humble Spirit of God is with us. Let us give thanks.  
People: **Thank you!**

And may the blessed, eternal Trinity grant you the peace the world  
cannot give, now and forever.  
People: **Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE

“Bound for My Father’s Home”

D.L. Moore

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEETINGS VIA ZOOM**

**September 28, Book Club, 10:00 AM**  
**September 29, Deacons Meeting, 7:00 PM**  
**September 30, Search Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM**  
**October 4, Virtual Worship/Communion Sunday**

**PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor Kerry Richardson (Interim Pastor)  
Patricia Cauchon, Director of Music  
Liturgist

All the Congregation, Ministers to the World

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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