

# TODAY'S SERVICE

*CULTIVATING CONNECTION WITH SELF, OTHERS, THE WIDE WORLD, AND GOD*

*FEEL FREE TO USE PRONOUNS OF YOUR CHOICE FOR ALL SONGS AND PRAYERS*

## Chimes

### Gathering Statement

We gather today to connect with the Divine, with ourselves, with each other, and with the Oneness of all Creation. We gather because inclusive community—built around the teachings of Jesus, shared stories, and rituals—inspires us to pursue justice and live out our values.

### CALL TO WORSHIP: Joyful (The One Who Saves)

Joyful, Joyful, we adore You  
 God of glory, Lord of Love  
 Hearts unfold like flowers before You  
 Opening to the sun above  
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
 Drive the dark of doubt away  
 Giver of eternal gladness  
 Fill us with the light of day  
 Chorus  
 You are the One who saves  
 You are the One who saves  
 You are the One whose hands  
 Lift us from the grave  
 You are the Light of Life  
 The Everlasting Day  
 You are the One who takes, all our sins away

You are giving and forgiving  
 Ever blessing, ever blessed  
 Fountain of the joy of living  
 Ocean depths of happy rest  
 Chorus

### Sarum Prayer

God be in my head  
 and in my understanding;  
 God be in my eyes  
 and in my looking;  
 God be in my mouth  
 and in my speaking;  
 God be in my heart  
 and in my thinking;  
 God be at my end  
 and at my departing

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

Before lighting the candle for Hope, we'll first read a scripture and then share a prayer by Cole Arthur Riley.

Psalm 27:13 (NASB)

I would have despaired unless I had believed  
 That I would see the goodness of the LORD  
 In the land of the living  
 Wait for the LORD;  
 Be strong and let your heart take courage;  
 Yes, wait for the LORD.

God of the long wait,  
 We take hope, knowing that you are a God whose movement is not dependent on our ability to perceive it. Remind us that your wait in the womb of Mary was not time wasted but an intimate beginning in mystery, growth, and dependency. Let our own waiting be the same, that we would find ourselves able to trust our communities to sustain us, entering a safe and sacred interdependence for all parts. Protect us from despair as we wait for your Light. Amen.

### Light the purple HOPE candle.

### Let's pray together the Advent prayer:

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,  
 We open all the broken places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ.  
 Show us the creative power of hope.  
 Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
 That we may walk in the light of Christ.  
 Amen

### Greet Your Neighbor

### Dismiss the Kids

### Announcements

### Sermon

### Candles

**PRAYER FOR LOVED ONES**

Jennifer, Laura, Robert, Latisha, Sally, Tim and Kristy, Bev, the Quinton family, Ulrich, Maggie, Kinley, Josh, Maeve, Jeff, Lydia, Ben, Dark Angel, Joseph, Zara, Ella, Nicole, Wendi, Constance, Erica, Ashton, Landon, the Sarr family, Clark, Kat, Dianne, Rae, Haevyn, Mindy, Calob, Janine, Bishop Yvette Flunder, Bishop Bonnie Perry, Bishop Darrell Goodwin, Bishop Tim Wolfe, Leah, David, Hope Clinic, JFS, Ozone House, immigrants, the Ypsilanti Youth Choir and those we lift up in silence.

**WE REMEMBER**

Ryan Gainer, Jordan Neely, Jayland Walker, Xiaojie Tan, Amelia Baca, Dontre Hamilton, Manuel Diaz, Eric Garner, Natasha McKenna, Sean Monterrosa, Loreal Tsingine, Laguan McDonald, Tyre Nichols, Cashay Henderson, Tiffany Banks, Whispering Wind Bear Spirit, Daniel Prude, Jaida Peterson, Jonathan Price, Antonio Valenzuela and those we haven't named. We hold them and their families in our hearts.

**Confession**

Merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are sorry and we repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

**Absolution****Communion Instructions****COMMUNION:****Invitation to the Lord's Table****Call and Response**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you!

**People:** And also with you.

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts!

**People:** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kin\_dom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kin\_dom, the power, and the glory are yours. Now  
and forever. Amen.

**Shared Communion Meal:** This is a gift Jesus gave us, a ritual to remember God's love through him, so we think of him every time we eat and drink Communion.

**COMMUNION SONG: Here in Your Presence**

Found in Your hands, fullness of joy  
Every fear, suddenly wiped away  
Here in Your presence  
All of my gains, now fade away  
Every crown, no longer on display  
Here in Your presence  
Pre-Chorus  
Heaven is trembling in awe of Your wonders  
The kings and their kingdoms are standing amazed  
Chorus  
Here in Your presence, we are undone  
Here in Your presence, heaven and earth become one  
Here in Your presence, all things are new  
Here in Your presence, everything bows before You  
Bridge  
Wonderful, beautiful, glorious  
Matchless in every way  
Wonderful, beautiful, glorious  
Matchless in every way  
(repeat)

**CLOSING SONG: Stand in Your Love**

When darkness tries to roll over my bones  
When sorrow comes to steal the joy I own  
When brokenness and pain is all I know  
I won't be shaken, no, I won't be shaken  
Chorus  
'Cause my fear doesn't stand a chance  
When I stand in Your love  
My fear doesn't stand a chance  
When I stand in Your love

My fear doesn't stand a chance  
When I stand in Your love

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Shame no longer has a place to hide  
And I am not a captive to the lies  
I'm not afraid to leave my past behind  
Oh, I won't be shaken, no, I won't be shaken

Chorus

Bridge

There's power that can break off every chain  
There's power that can empty out a grave  
There's resurrection power that can save  
There's power in Your name, power in Your name  
Chorus



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**Benediction**

