Welcome

Prelude

How Do You Keep Going?

Call to Worship

“Enduring Blessing”

What I really want to tell you is to just lay this blessing
on your forehead, on your heart;
let it rest in the palm of your hand,
because there is hardly anything this blessing could say,
any word it could offer to fill the hollow.

Let this blessing work its way into you
with its lines that hold nearly unspeakable lament.

Let this blessing settle into you
with its hope more ancient than knowing.

Hear how this blessing has not come alone -
how it echoes with the voices of those who accompany you,
who attend you in every moment,
who continually whisper this blessing to you.

Hear how they do not cease to walk with you,
even when the dark is deepest.
Hear how they encompass you always -
breathing this blessing to you,
bearing this blessing to you
still.

Gathering Song 
“Morningstar” vv. 1, 3 & 4

Gathering Prayer

God of all blessings,
source of all life,
giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:
for the breath
that sustains life,
for the food of this earth
that nurtures life,
for the love of family and friends
without which there would be no life.

We thank you for this day:
for life
and one more day to love,
for opportunity
and one more day to work for justice and peace,
for neighbors
and one more person to love
and be loved by,
for your grace
and one more experience of your presence,
for your promise
to be with us,
to be our God,
and to bring forth Shalom.

For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,
through the Christ light we pray. Amen.

Children’s Time
Barb Harris

Invitation to the Offering

“Prophets believe that what they proclaim on any day
can be transformed into real action.”
- Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II
The Offering

Doxology

“Halleluja”
(sung twice)
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.

Prayer of Dedication

God of all blessings,
source of all life,
giver of all grace:
We thank you for setting us in communities:
for families
who nurture our becoming,
for friends
who love us by choice,
for companions at work
who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers
who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands
who broaden our worldview,
for those with different beliefs from our own
who call us to grow in understanding,
for children
who lighten our moments with delight.
For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,
through the Christ light we pray. Amen.

Scripture reading

James 1:1-8 (The Voice)

James, a servant of God and the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, to the twelve tribes of Israel who are spread across the earth: I send you my warmest welcome!
Don’t run from tests and hardships, brothers and sisters. As difficult as they are, you will ultimately find joy in them; if you embrace them, your faith will blossom under pressure and teach you true patience as you endure. And true patience brought on by endurance will equip you to complete the long journey and cross the finish line—mature, complete, and wanting nothing. If you don’t have all the wisdom needed for this journey, then all you have to do is ask God for it; and God will grant all that you need. God gives lavishly and never scolds you for asking.
The key is that your request be anchored by your single-minded commitment to God. Those who depend only on their own judgment are like those lost on the seas, carried away by any wave or picked up by any wind. Those adrift on their own wisdom shouldn’t assume the Lord will rescue them or bring them anything. The splinter of divided loyalty shatters your compass and leaves you dizzy and confused.

Message

“We Keep Going”
Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song of Response
“Woyaya”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Blessing

God of all blessings,
source of all life,
giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:
for the breath
that sustains life,
for the food of this earth
that nurtures life,
for the love of family and friends
without which there would be no life.

We thank you for this day:
for a table that is continuously open,
despite our shortcomings,
set with heapings of your compassion and grace;
for bread that nourishes not only our body,
but all aspects of our living;
for a cup that fills us with
the holy power of reconciliation
that is beyond our understanding.
For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God,
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Words of Institution
(Participants are invited to have with them bread to nourish one’s body, and drink to quench one’s thirst. We will partake in the communion elements together.)

Sharing of Bread and Cup

“The Open Table”
Amelia Lloyd, vocalist
Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all blessings, 
source of all life, 
giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life: 
for the breath 
that sustains life, 
for the food of this earth 
that nurtures life, 
for the love of family and friends 
without which there would be no life.

We thank you for this day:
for life 
and one more day to love, 
for opportunity 
and one more day to work for justice and peace, 
for neighbors 
and one more person to love 
and be loved by, 
for your grace 
and one more experience of your presence, 
for your promise 
to be with us, 
to be our God, 
and to bring forth Shalom.

For these, and all blessings, 
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God, 
through the Christ light we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Commissioning

Sending Forth Song

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Postlude

Sources:

Call to Worship written by Jan Richardson, in The Cure for Sorrow, 2016, pp. 111-112.

Morningstar

1. You are the Morn-ing-star, You are the Foun-tain,
2. In dry and wear-y lands, You give us wa-ter,
3. Lib-er-ate yes-ter-day, free for to-mor-row.
4. In faith we seek Your face, pow-er and bril-liance,

life breath-ing Spir-it, hope from the moun-tain.
greet-ing each wan-der-er as son or daugh-ter.
Guide all who search for You, in stress or sor-row.
Strong and up-lift-ing hands, grace-filled re-sil-i-ence.

We sing for joy of You, while our souls cling to You.

You are the Morn-ing-star.

We sing for joy of You, while our souls cling to You.

You are the Morn-ing-star.
"Woyaya" by Osa

We are going, heaven knows
We will get there, heaven knows
where we are going, We'll know we're there.
how we will get there, We know we will.
It will be hard we know, and the
road will be muddy and rough, but we'll get there
heaven knows how we will get there, We know we will.

D.C. Woyaya!
Woyaya
repeat ad lib Woyaya!
Woyaya
Woyaya
Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
   I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
   Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
   Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
   when my life is almost gone,
   Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
   Refrain

3 When the shadows appear and the night draws near,
   and the day is past and gone,
   At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

   Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.