Welcome

Prelude

The Call  Psalm 32: 1-8, 11 (The Voice)
How happy is the one whose wrongs are forgiven,
    whose sin is hidden from sight.
How happy is the person whose sin the Eternal will not take into account.
    How happy are those who no longer lie, to themselves or others.
When I refused to admit my wrongs, I was miserable,
    moaning and complaining all day long
    so that even my bones felt brittle.
Day and night, your hand kept pressing on me.
    My strength dried up like water in the summer heat;
    you wore me down.
When I finally saw my own lies,
    I owned up to my sins before you,
    and I did not try to hide my evil deeds from you.
I said to myself, “I'll admit all my sins to the Eternal,”
    and you lifted and carried away the guilt of my sin.
So let all who are devoted to you
    speak honestly to you now, while you are still listening.
For then when the floods come, surely the rushing water
    will not even reach them.
You are my hiding place.
You will keep me out of trouble
and envelop me with songs that remind me I am free.

God says,
“I will teach you and tell you the way to go and how to get there;
I will give you good counsel, and I will watch over you.”

Express your joy; be happy in God, you who are good and true.
Go ahead, shout and rejoice aloud, you whose hearts are honest and straightforward!

Gathering Song
“God’s Eye is On the Sparrow”
Bartlett/Gabriel/Martin
Merry Keller, vocalist

Gathering Prayer
“On Theodicy”

O, God, we gladly confess:

“The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.”

That we gladly and confidently confess—
And yet,
we notice your creatures not well fed
but mired in hunger, poverty, and despair.
And yet,
we notice the power of evil that stalks the best of us:
the power of racism,
the dread of viruses,
the sadness of death— “good death” or cruel death.
And so we pray confidently toward you,
but with footnotes that qualify.
We pray confidently,
but we will not deny in your presence
the negatives that make us wonder.

We pray amid our honest reservations:
give us patience to wait,
impatience to care,
sadness held honestly,
surrounded by joy over your coming kindom—
and peace while we wait—
and peace at the last,
that we may be peacemakers and so your children.

We pray in the name of your firstborn son, our peacemaker.
Amen.
Welcoming New Members Linda Bergh and John Bergh

Congregational Response:
We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Children’s Time with Ms. Judy

Scripture Reading Matthew 10:24-31 (The Voice)

“A student is no greater than the teacher, and a servant is never greater than the master. It is sufficient if the student is like the teacher and the servant like the master. If people call the head of a house ‘Beelzebul,’ which means ‘devil,’ just imagine what they’re calling the members of the household.

Do not be afraid of those who may taunt or persecute you. Everything they do—even if they think they are hiding behind closed doors—will come to light. All their secrets will eventually be made known. And you should proclaim in the bright light of day everything that I have whispered to you in the dark. Whatever whispers you hear—shout them from the rooftops of houses.

Don’t fear those who aim to kill just the body but are unable to touch the soul. The one to fear is he who can destroy you, soul and body, in the fires of hell. Look, if you sold a few sparrows, how much money would you get? A copper coin apiece, perhaps? And yet God in heaven knows when those small sparrows fall to the ground. You, beloved, are worth so much more than a whole flock of sparrows. God knows everything about you, even the number of hairs on your head. So do not fear.”

Message “God of the Sparrows”

Song of Response “So Will I” Ben Platt
Curtis Heinrich, vocalist

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.

Moment for Mission Pridefest/Gateway ONA Barb Biedenstein

Invitation to the Offering

We need to be reminded of the ones who lack voice or whose voice we do not often hear. We think of them unlike us, but they are our neighbors - the unemployed, the gender fluid, the immigrants, the poor, the Black men driving, or walking, the prisoners, the slaves, the depressed. They are the ones who dwell in places
short of mercy, absent of justice,
defaulted on the gifts of life.
They are noticed acutely by God.
Are they noticed by us?

Offertory

Doxology  “Hallelujah”  
(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

O God who watches over us
AND
calls us to acts of justice and mercy...
receive these, our offerings.

We share them in humble gratitude,  
with bold conviction  
that all your children,  
ALL  
your children,  
May know the joy of freedom and fulfillment.  
It is in the name of our Christ, we pray.  
Amen.

Blessing and Commissioning

Sending Forth Song  “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”  

Sources:  
The Invitation to Offering is adapted from “Brick Production,” by Walter Brueggemann, in Prayers for a Privileged People, 2008, p. 86.
Go, My Children, with My Blessing


1 Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
2 Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
Growing in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you;

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.