Welcome
Prelude
The Call

“An Excerpt from A New Harmony

“We live in the midst of enormous change. We too are being invited to view life in radically new terms - to see all things as essentially interwoven, to see life as one...

If we are one, then we are going to have to change the way we view ourselves as nations, as wisdom traditions, as families, and as individuals...

We live at a costly moment.
The question is, what type of cost will it be? Will it be the cost of transformation in which we reshape our lives and relationships, both collectively and individually, to serve the new Pentecost? Or will it be the cost of further fragmentation...”

Gathering Song

“Sim Shalom”
Gathering Prayer

Beloved God,
with the eagerness of a child,
you wait for our coming.
With the urgency of a mother,
you long for our return.
With the anxious heart of a father,
your arms ache to hold us.
The disappointment,
the judgment,
the turning away,
that's us, not you.

Forgive us and heal us
of everything in us
that recoils from our common humanity.
You have given us such worth;
help us to receive all creation with your high regard,
and to know ourselves,
and all your children,
precious and loved.
Amen, and Amen.

Children's Time with Ms. Linda

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-32 (The Voice)
Readers' Theatre by members of the Bauer family:
Luke, Nate, Jack and Anne

Once there was this man who had two sons. One day the younger son came to his father and said, “Father, eventually I'm going to inherit my share of your estate. Rather than waiting until you die, I want you to give me my share now.” And so the father liquidated assets and divided them. A few days passed and this younger son gathered all his wealth and set off on a journey to a distant land. Once there he wasted everything he owned on wild living. He was broke, a terrible famine struck that land, and he felt desperately hungry and in need. He got a job with one of the locals, who sent him into the fields to feed the pigs. The young man felt so miserably hungry that he wished he could eat the slop the pigs were eating. Nobody gave him anything.

So he had this moment of self-reflection: “What am I doing here? Back home, my father's hired servants have plenty of food. Why am I here starving to death? I'll get up and return to my father, and I'll say, 'Father, I have done wrong—wrong against God and against you. I have forfeited any right to be treated like your son, but I'm wondering if you'd treat me as one of your hired servants?'” So he got up and returned to his father. The father looked off in the distance and saw the young man returning. He felt compassion for his son and ran out to him, enfolded him in an embrace, and kissed him.
The son said, “Father, I have done a terrible wrong in God’s sight and in your sight too. I have forfeited any right to be treated as your son.”

But the father turned to his servants and said, “Quick! Bring the best robe we have and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Go get the fattest calf and butcher it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate because my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and has been found.” So they had this huge party.

Now the man’s older son was still out in the fields working. He came home at the end of the day and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant said, “Your brother has returned, and your father has butchered the fattest calf to celebrate his safe return.”

The older brother got really angry and refused to come inside, so his father came out and pleaded with him to join the celebration. But he argued back, “Listen, all these years I’ve worked hard for you. I’ve never disobeyed one of your orders. But how many times have you even given me a little goat to roast for a party with my friends? Not once! This is not fair! So this son of yours comes, this wasteful delinquent who has spent your hard-earned wealth on loose women, and what do you do? You butcher the fattest calf from our herd!”

The father replied, “My son, you are always with me, and all I have is yours. Isn’t it right to join in the celebration and be happy? This is your brother we’re talking about. He was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found again!”

Music for Reflection

Message

“The Arc Toward Shalom”

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

“Can We Agree on Love?”

Gary Mitchell

Montel Moore, vocalist

Thanksgiving to God

Blessing and Commissioning

Sending Forth Song

“I Will Sing of Your Love, Love, Love”

I will sing of your love, love, love
of your steadfast love for as long as I live,
and I will sing of your love, love, love
for as long as I live.

I will sing of a love so wide
that it welcomes the neighbor and will not divide
and I will sing of your love, love, love
for as long as I live.
I will sing of your boundless grace
of your outstretched arms and your endless embrace
and I will sing of your love, love, love
for as long as I live
for as long as I live.

Sources:


Sim Shalom

Sung as a Round

Part 1
Cadd9 C/B Amin F G
Sim shalom tova uvracha sim shalom-

Part 2
Cadd9 C/B Amin Dmin7 G7 C(add9)
Sim shalom

Part 3
Cadd9 C/B Am Dim7 G Cadd9
Sim shalom sim shalom

Translation: Give peace, Kindness and blessing.
Sim shalom, tovah uv’rachah