**Worship Service**

**May 16, 2021**

**Welcome**

Good morning and welcome. I’m glad that you’ve joined us for time of worship this morning. It’s good to gather together to worship God. May the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to our God, who is our Rock and Redeemer.

**Opening Prayer**

God of promise and purpose,

we greet you this day with thankful hearts.

As flowers open and buds unfurl around us,

the beauty of your world lifts our hearts in praise.

As children grow and students prepare to graduate,

their energy and enthusiasm encourages us toward your future.

When Jesus ascended on high, he promised to be with us always,

and so we know he is always by our side as the future opens before us.

Draw close to us in this hour of worship

and show us the promise and purpose in our own lives—

how we can unfurl with new life

and move into the future with the energy of your Holy Spirit

and the abiding love of Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Call to Worship**

O God, you are my God;

I earnestly search for you.  
My soul thirsts for you;  
my whole body longs for you  
in this parched and weary land  
where there is no water.  
I have seen you in your sanctuary  
and gazed upon your power and glory.  
Your unfailing love is better than life itself;  
how I praise you!  
I will praise you as long as I live,

lifting up my hands to you in prayer.  
You satisfy me more than the richest feast.  
I will praise you with songs of joy.

(Psalm 63:1-5)

**Hymn of Praise:** Great is Thy Faithfulness (3 verses)

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

[Refrain]

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

[Refrain]

**Prayer of Confession**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have called all your followers

to carry the Good News of God’s love and forgiveness to the ends of the earth.

Yet we confess we cannot always find the words to tell others of our faith.

We are often silent when others criticize the church that bears your name.

We try to act out your love

but it’s hard to tell others why we do what we do for you.

Forgive our hesitation to share the gift you have given us,

and renew our courage to speak of our commitment to you.

Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Friends, remember the promise the apostle Paul declares: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God’s deep love will never let us go.

**Hymn of Reflection:** Open our Eyes (Sung 2x)

Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord,  
and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life,

You have begun the work of creating a new world,

a world where justice is known,

where freedom and healing are available to all people.

We pray for the places in the world that are caught up in violence,

where people are held captive or struggle under oppressive powers,

and where sickness prevails, and medical resources are scarce.

Grant those affected courage and perseverance through your Spirit.

May people everywhere find the fullness of life you intend for us all.

You have begun the work of creating a new community,

a community where love is shared, and all find a sense of belonging.

We pray for groups who are made to feel like they don’t belong,

for families that caught up in tension or strife,

and for those who feel isolated or desperate because no one seems to care.

Grant them all courage and comfort through your Spirit.

May people everywhere find the fullness of life you intend for us all.

You have begun the work of making a new creation,

a creation where all that has been broken is being restored,

where all that has been distorted is made right,

and what has been polluted or damaged is renewed.

We pray for the earth, the places where its natural balances are threatened

and species put at risk by human exploitation.

Send your healing Spirit to renew the earth and make us wiser stewards.

May creatures everywhere know the fullness of life you intend for us all.

As you work towards making all things new,

we pray for renewal in our churches and ministries,

for leaders tired out by the responsibilities of coping with pandemic demands,

and for church members who feel disconnected and have drifted away in the months of distancing.

Send your energizing Spirit to gather the church in ways both familiar and new.

May your servants in every church know the fullness of life you intend for us all

and be empowered to bear witness to Jesus in refreshing ways.

We offer these prayers, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Scripture Lesson:** Jeremiah 1:4-19 – Barry Pattenden

**Sermon:** The Call of the Prophet

**Prayer after the Sermon**

O God of all the prophets,  
you knew us and chose us  
before you formed us in the womb.  
Fill us with faith that speaks your word,  
hope that does not disappoint,  
and love that bears all things for your sake,  
until that day when we shall know you fully,  
even as we are known by you. Amen.

**Hymn of Commitment:** I surrender all (4 verses)

Verse 1:

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.

I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to Thee, my blessed Savior,

I surrender all.

Verse 2:

All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at His feet I bow,

worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me, Jesus, take me now.

Verse 3:

All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly Thine.

May thy Holy Spirit fill me, may I know Thy pow'r divine.

Verse 4:

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee.

Fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessing fall on me.

**Benediction**

May the Lord bless and protect you; may the Lord’s face radiate with joy because of you; may he be gracious to you, show you his favour, and give you his peace.