

WE GATHER WITH HUMBLE HEARTS

GATHERING MUSIC *God's Eye is on the Sparrow* Arr. Victor Labenske

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE The Rev. Dr. James Butler

* INTROIT (Hymn 403, v. 1)

*Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there.
Where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer.
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.*

* OPENING RESPONSES (from Psalm 46)

Marie Andrews

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be moved and the waters rage.
The Lord of Hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Be still and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations.
Be still and know.
Be still.

* HYMN 687 “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” ST. ANNE

* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Brothers and sisters, God is with us!
We are not alone!

CALL TO CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION

UNISON CONFESSION

God over all the nations: we come as we are—some are sad, some are happy, most of us are anxious, and many of us are angry and hurting. Whatever our politics and convictions, help us to desire your will more than our own, and to remember that we belong to you, through our Lord Jesus Christ. With your help and saving grace, we will do what you require: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly before you, seeking the peace and well-being of this nation and the world you love. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SUNG RESPONSE

*In God alone my soul can find peace and rest, in God my peace and joy.
Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S RESTORING WORD

FIRST LESSON Psalm 69:1-3, 13-15, 34-36 (Pew Bible, O.T. p.530)

ANTHEM

Grant to Us, Lord

S. Drummond Wolff

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech Thee. The Spirit to think and do always such things as are rightful. That we who cannot do anything that is good without Thee, may by Thee be enabled to live according to Thy will. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

SECOND LESSON Jude 1:17-25 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.244)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SUNG BLESSING (Hymn 487, vv. 4, 5)

*Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nurturing community.
Empower us to realize God's kingdom through our children's eyes.*

*Help us, O God, each child embrace. God give them blessings, grant them grace.
Surprise them, Lord, with wonders still, and gently guide them to your will.*

* GOSPEL LESSON Luke 18:1-8 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.81)

SERMON

“When the Bottom Drops”

Dr. Butler

“Unto him be glory who can keep you from falling and help you to stand without blemish...”

* HYMN 822 “When We Are Living” SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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

