Participants:

Preacher: Lesli

Prayer: Bill

Liturgists: Chong Family

Piano: Pearl

**REMEMBERING OUR FIRST LOVE**

**WE BEGIN OUR WORSHIP**

**Welcome:**

**God Greets Us**

**All: Amen**

**Call to Worship**

**One:** In a world that cries out, “Fear me!”

**All: We will listen to Jesus’ words,**

**“Don’t be afraid!”**

**One:** In a world that wants us to hate the other…

**All: We will live Jesus’ call to,**

**“Love God and love your neighbour, as you love yourself.”**

**One:** In a world that radicalizes…

**All: We, too, will be radical.**

**Radical with our hospitality.**

**Radical with our hope.**

**Radical with our love.**

**One:** Then let us worship God,

ready to be who we are called to be.

*~ adapted from a Call to Worship by Richard Bott*

**Song: We Love to Sound Your Praises**

**We love to sound your praises, To lift our hands above,**

**To sing how grace amazes, To celebrate your love.**

**Yet, God, your world is grieving; Is your heart breaking, too?**

**May we cry out, believing Laments can honor you.**

**O God, you came to save us In Christ, your suffering Son.**

**In his death you forgave us; In his life, joy is won!**

**And when this world is suffering, When songs of grief abound,**

**May we work for your kingdom Till alleluias sound!**

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*Music: (ST. EDITH) PD*

**Prayer of Praise and Adoration**

We worship you, O God, as Creator and Liberator

You saw your children

as slaves in Egypt,

and you brought them to freedom;

You gave laws which enabled people to relate to you,

to one another,

and to the whole creation.

All that we have learned

and think we know

has not brought meaning

to our lives;

the brokenness

of our world

needs your peace;

our pain-shattered hearts

need your healing:

and so you speak to us

through the mouth

of your Servant, Jesus

He has shown us just how precious we are to you,

and through him

you have delivered us into a new and living relationship with you

and with one another—

with a new commandment—

a commandment of love.

May we reveal the depth of our love

as we praise and adore you, O God,

in Jesus name and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen**.**

*—Adapted from Moira Laidlaw and Thom Schuman*

**Song: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service, LU 928: 1, 3**

Lord, whose love in humble service

bore the weight of human need,

who upon the cross, forsaken,

worked your mercy’s perfect deed,

we, your servants, bring the worship

not of voice alone, but heart,

consecrating to your purpose

every gift that you impart.

As we worship, grant us vision

till your love’s revealing light in

its height and depth and greatness

dawns upon our quickened sight,

making known the needs and burdens

your compassion bids us bear,

stirring us to tireless striving,

your abundant life to share.

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**WE CONFESS OUR SINS AND ARE FORGIVEN**

**Prayer of Confession**

This intro not on screen God's love is central to the law he has given to us in his word—Let us open ourselves to such love as we open our hearts to confess our sins to God:

With hearts of sorrow,

we come before you, O God,

to confess what you already know—

That we have sinned against you

In thought word and deed, by what we have done,

And by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been,

Help us amend what we are,

And direct what we shall be,

So that we may learn to walk in your ways,

To the glory of your holy name. Amen

**Song: Change My Heart, O God, SNC 56 (***Please note that the first two lines are sung again after the words “this is what I pray” )*

Change my heart, O God;

Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God;

May I be like you.

You are the Potter;

I am the clay.

Mold me and make me;

This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God;

Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God;

May I be like you.

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**Assurance of Pardon**

You are loved.

Love is the Way.

When you love God, you love others.

When you truly lay down your life for others,

you lay down your life for God.

Give yourself to God by serving others.

Know that in God’s love there is forgiveness,

healing, and reconciliation. Amen**.**

*~ written by Rev. Mindi*

**Song: God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, LU 876: 1, 2**

God, whose giving knows no ending,

from your rich and endless store:

nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom,

costly cross, grave’s shattered door;

gifted by you, we turn to you,

offering up ourselves in praise;

thankful songs shall rise forever,

gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing

toward the goals of Christ, your Son:

all at peace in health and freedom, races

joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor,

lest we strive for self alone;

born with talents, make us servants

fit to answer at your throne.

*Contributors: Robert L. Edwards, Lloyd Larson*

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**Prayers of the People (**Bill—please end with a prayer of illumination as we prepare to read and hear God’s word.)

**WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture: Revelation 2:1-7(NRSV)**

**The Message to Ephesus**

**2 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:**

**2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. 3 I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.**

**Message: Remembering Our First Love**

**Prayer**

**Song of Response: Jesus, All For Jesus, LU 738**

Jesus, all for Jesus,

all I am and have and ever hope to be.

All of my ambitions, hopes, and plans—

I surrender these into your hands.

For it’s only in your will that I am free.

For it’s only in your will that I am free.

Jesus, all for Jesus,

all I am and have and ever hope to be.

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**WE END OUR WORSHIP WITH BLESSING AND PRAISE**

**God Blesses Us**

**All: Alleluia! Amen**

**Song: Song of Hope, LU 941: 1, 2**

May the God of hope go with us every day,

filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,

bringing light and hope to every land and race.

*Refrain*

Praying, let us work for peace,

singing, share our joy with all,

working for a world that’s new,

faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

God will be our shepherd as we go our way

and will not forsake us when we go astray.

Even though the load of life is hard to bear,

we must not forget that God is always there.

*Refrain*

Praying, let us work for peace,

singing, share our joy with all,

working for a world that’s new,

faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

*Text : Traditional, tr. by Alvin Schutmaat, 1921–1988*

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