Participants:

Message: Brenda

Prayer: Jane

Liturgists: Dave, Morgan, Baukje

Piano: Pearl

 **REJOICING IN EXILE**

 **WE BEGIN OUR WORSHIP**

**Welcome** (Mark)

**God’s Greeting**

**All: Amen**

**Song: Come, Worship God, LU 509: 1**

Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;

enter God’s presence with thanks and a song!

You are the rock of your people’s salvation,

to whom our jubilant praises belong.

**Call to Worship**

*(based on Psalm 122)*

**One:**  We come in joy to celebrate and worship God,

**All: We give thanks for the sense of awed reverence we experience**

**as we come together to share in our praise of God.**

**One:**  We come in expectation to celebrate and worship God,

where we can experience God’s Shalom**.**

**All: We give thanks for the freedom and peace we experience,**

**as we come together to share in our praise of God.**

**One:** We come in trust to celebrate and worship God

because here we are challenged to faithfulness.

**All: We give thanks for the God who understands and love us,**

**who hears our fears, our tears and our songs of praise.**

**We joyfully come together to share in our praise of God. Amen.**

*~ adapted from “The Timeless Psalms,written by Joan Stott*

**Song: Come, Worship God, LU 509: 3, 4**

We are your people, the sheep of your pasture;

you are our Maker, and to you we pray.

Gladly we kneel in obedience before you;

great is the one whom we worship this day!

Now let us listen, for you speak among us;

open our hearts to receive what you say.

Peace be to all who remember your goodness,

trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!

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**Opening Prayer**

Let us pray:

In the days to come,

may we work to establish justice;

may we learn to set aside our differences;

may we awaken from our apathy.

Then we will find ourselves standing

within the gates of your grace, Approaching God.

In the days to come,

may we be alert to the opportunities

 we will have to welcome the stranger;

may we keep our eyes open

 for the chances to offer hope to the despairing;

may we expect to find you

 in every person we meet,

 in every place we go.

Then we will find ourselves standing

within the gates of your love, Risen Lord.

In the days to come,

may we discover that fear has fled;

may we lay aside the shadows of our doubts,

may we go take all the weapons

crafted from our fears, our anger, our regrets,

 and transform them into generous gifts

 of hope and life for all around us.

Then we will find ourselves standing

within the gates of your peace, Spirit of gentleness.

As we gather in virtual worship today, may we find ourselves standing within the gates of your heart,

God in Community, Holy in One,

Amen

**Song: Be Still, For the Presence, LU 532: 1, 2**

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy One is here

Come bow before Him now

With reverence and fear

In Him no sin is found

We stand on holy ground

Be still for the presence of the Lord

The Holy One is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord

Is shining all around

He burns with holy fire

With splendor He is crowned

How awesome is the sight

Our radiant King of light

Be still for the glory of the Lord

Is shining all around

**A TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**Prayer of Confession**

God, we are ready now.

We want peace now.

We long to receive the Prince of Peace

in our world today.

We need your help, O God.

Teach us to clothe ourselves in Jesus Christ.

Guide us into true readiness,

even though we do not know the date and time,

when true peace will reign.

Wake us up;

shake off the cobwebs of our complacency;

and take us with you

on the path up your holy mountain.

Plant your peace within us,

so that each day, each moment,

we may be ready for the harvest of your love. Amen

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the Assurance of Pardon:

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! We can set aside our differences and embrace everyone, we can seek peace for all in our lives, our neighborhoods, our world. Amen.

**Song: Be Still, for the Presence, LU 532: 3**

Be still for the power of the Lord

Is moving in this place

He comes to cleanse and heal

To minister His grace

No work too hard for Him

In faith receive from Him

Be still for the power of the Lord

Is moving in this place

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**Prayers of the People** (Jane—again, can you conclude your prayer with a prayer for illumination? Thanks!)

**WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture: Psalm 122–Song of Praise and Prayer for Jerusalem**

**A Song of Ascents. Of David.**

I was glad when they said to me,

 *“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”*

Our feet are standing

 within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city

 that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up,

 the tribes of the Lord,

as was decreed for Israel,

 to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones for judgment were set up,

 the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

 *“May they prosper who love you.*

*Peace be within your walls,*

 *and security within your towers.”*

For the sake of my relatives and friends

 I will say, *“Peace be within you.”*

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

 I will seek your good.

**Message: Rejoicing in Exile**

**Prayer**

**Song of Response: All Are Welcome, LU 269: 1, 4, 5**

Let us build a house where love can dwell

and all can safely live,

a place where saints and children tell

how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,

rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*Refrain*

All are welcome, all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach

beyond the wood and stone

to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,

and live the Word they’ve known.

Here the outcast and the stranger

bear the image of God’s face;

let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*Refrain*

All are welcome, all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,

their songs and visions heard

and loved and treasured, taught and claimed

as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,

prayers of faith and songs of grace,

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*Refrain*

All are welcome, all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

*Words and Music: Marty Haugen*

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**OUR TIME OF WORSHIP TOGETHER ENDS**

**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.**

**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.**

**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**

*Letra: Tradicional; tr. por Alvin Schutmaat, 1921–1988*

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