Participants:

Message: Mark

Prayer: Mark

Song Leaders/liturgists: Judi, Luke

Pianist: Pearl

Drums: Luke

***“Adopted”***

**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP**

**Welcome** (Mark)

**God’s Greeting**

**All: Amen**

**Song: Lord, Most High, LU 593**

**Women: From the ends of the earth**

**Men: From the ends of the earth,**

**Women: from the depths of the sea,**

**Men from the depths of the sea,**

**Women: from the heights of the heavens**

**Men: from the heights of the heavens**

**All: your name be praised.**

**Women: from the hearts of the weak**

**Men: from the hearts of the weak**

**Women: from the shouts of the strong,**

**Men: from the shouts of the strong**

**Women: from the lips of all people**

**Men: from the lips of all people**

**All: this song we raise, Lord.**

**Throughout the endless ages**

**You will be crowned with praises, Lord Most High.**

**Exalted in every nation,**

**Sovereign of all creation, Lord Most High,**

**Be magnified, be magnified.**

**Call to Worship (**led by Judi)

One: Praise the One who spoke and made everything**!**

**All: Let the rivers ripple with joy;**

**let the mountains stomp their feet.**

One: Praise the One who adopts all of us as children!

**All: Let old folks tell familiar stories;**

**let the children laugh and play.**

One: Praise God!

**All: We will sing of God's glory;**

**we will shout our joy to the heavens.**

**Song: Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, LU 610**

**Lord I lift Your name on high**

**Lord I love to sing Your praises**

**I'm so glad You're in my life**

**I'm so glad You came to save us**

**You came from heaven to earth**

**To show the way**

**From the earth to the cross**

**My debt to pay**

**From the cross to the grave**

**From the grave to the sky**

**Lord I lift Your name on high**

**Lord I lift Your name on high**

**Lord I love to sing Your praises**

**I'm so glad You're in my life**

**I'm so glad You came to save us**

**You came from heaven to earth**

**To show the way**

**From the earth to the cross**

**My debt to pay**

**From the cross to the grave**

**From the grave to the sky**

**Lord I lift Your name on high**

**Opening Prayer**

(Luke) Creation's Father:

of all that you created and love,

you choose us to be your children;

you make us holy

by your Spirit's presence;

of all that you could offer to us,

you have given us Jesus.

(Judi) God’s Child:

you came to clothe us

in salvation's finery;

you amazed the wisest

with your humility;

you know all the thoughts

we dare not share with anyone.

(Luke) Spirit of Abba:

as we sing God's praises,

whisper the good news to our ears;

as we seek to be faithful to our calling,

lead us into the kingdom waiting for us.

(Both) God in Community, Holy in One,

Listen to your children praying:

**Song: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying, LU 896**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**Lord, send your Spirit in this place;**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,**

**send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

**WE CONFESS OUR SHORTCOMINGS AND ARE FORGIVEN**

**(**Judi**) Call to Reconciliation**

It is easy to become slaves to our passions, it is harder to live as God's children. Let us confess the easy choices we have made, so God can strengthen us to be faithful sisters and brothers of Christ**.** Let us pray this unison prayer for forgiveness:

**Unison Prayer for Forgiveness** (Led by Judi and Luke)

**All: Abba God: we know that given the chance, we rarely praise others. We are guided more by meanness than by your gentleness. And we are seldom wise enough to listen to your voice, preferring instead the sweet songs of sin.**

**Forgive us. Touch those inner places of hope and joy that they might become the gifts we can offer to those around us, as we seek to show, in all we do that we are God’s children. Amen**

**A Time of Silence**

**Assurance of Pardon** (Judi)

Hear the good news. The time is now; the place is here: God has redeemed us from sin; God has claimed us as the children of Hope, as his heirs.

Praise God, all people, for life is given to us anew. Thanks be to God. Amen

**Song: Children of the Heavenly Father, LU 23: 1, 3, 4**

**Children of the heavenly Father**

**safely in his bosom gather;**

**nestling bird nor star in heaven**

**such a refuge e’er was given.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever**

**from the Lord his children sever;**

**for to them his grace revealing,**

**he turns sorrow into healing.**

**God has given, he has taken,**

**but his children ne’er forsaken;**

**his the loving purpose solely**

**to preserve them pure and holy.**

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture: Galatians 3:23-4:7**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir**.**

**Message: *Adopted***

**Prayers of the People**

**Song: How Great is the Love of the Father, LU 683: 1, 2, 3**

**How great is the love of the Father,**

**the love he has shown to us—**

**so great that he calls us his children,**

**and children of God we are,**

**and children of God we are!**

**The world without God does not know us**

**because it did not know Christ.**

**Lord, help us to be pure and spotless,**

**for children of God we are,**

**for children of God we are.**

**What we are to be in the future**

**as yet has not been made known,**

**but when Christ returns, we shall see him,**

**and then we shall be like him,**

**and then we shall be like him.**

**WE LEAVE ASSURED WE ARE GOD’S CHILDREN**

**God Blesses Us**

**Song: I am Not My Own.**

**This my only comfort in my life and in my death**

**You have fully paid for all my sins and all my debts**

**Even when I struggle to believe**

**With your precious blood you set me free**

**I am not my own but belong body and soul**

**In my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord**

**Always by your Holy Spirit you assure me**

**Of eternal life and make me willing and ready**

**Even when I can’t see my way through**

**From now on to always live for you**

**I am not my own but belong body and soul**

**In my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord**

**I am not my own but belong body and soul**

**In my life and in death to you Lord, Christ my Lord**

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**Lord, Most High**

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