

Order of Worship

Welcome

Karla Miller

Gathering Song

**Blessed are you who hunger, blessed are you who thirst.
Blessed are you who mourn and feel no power on this earth.
Blessed are you who are poor in spirit and don't know what to do,
Oh child of God, blessed are you. Blessed are you,
Oh blessed are you, Oh child of God, blessed are you.**

A Time for Centering

Voluntary

Meditation
Jules Massenet
Linda Laderach, violin

Opening Words

This is thin place where earth and heaven embrace.

Where past interweaves with future, where we gather expectantly.

This is a thin place where hopes are renewed,

Where faith is restored, where peace is revived, where love is refreshed.

This is a thin place.

Love about us.

Love beside us.

And love within us.

Grace revealed as we worship together.

*Hymn

Christ, You Offer Us Your Welcome

**Christ, you offer us your welcome; it's a precious gift you give!
You bring reconciliation and you show us how to live.
You call poor ones from their sadness, you call rich ones from their pride.
You call people who are outcast, telling all to "Come inside!"**

**You have given us a mission — to invite our neighbors in —
and your call to love and listen is a place we can begin.
We need more than open houses; we need, first, to give our hearts.
By your Spirit, make us servants; that's the way your welcome starts.**

**May we set a welcome table, may we find a common ground
where no one will feel they're labeled, where acceptance can be found.
We don't need to entertain there, or to do things that impress —
just to hear folks' joy and pain there, and to love so all are blest.**

First Reading

Psalm 23

Phyllis Rhinehart

Second Reading

exerpt from "Kindness"
Naomi Shihab Nye

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.

Anthem

All Is Well
Lloyd Larson

FCCH Choir

All is well, all is well. Heaven and earth rejoice. For each day darkness falls into the dawn of love's light. Sing alleluia. All is well, all is well. Let there be peace on earth. Love is here, go and tell, speak of the hope that's present. Sing alleluia. All is well, all is well. Lift up your voice and sing. Love is here for all to share. Walk in the light of goodness. Sing alleluia. All is well.

Sermon

Living on the Edge of Our Hearts

Karla Miller

A Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Loving God, **hear our prayer.**

Congregational Prayer

Loving God, You who breathe life into weary hearts, we come before you with all that we carry—our worries, our griefs, our questions, and our hopes. When the world feels heavy and the road uncertain, may we live with resilience.

Where there is despair, help us to kindle hope. Where there is fear, help us to grow in our trust that all will be well. Help us to remember that even in difficult seasons, new life is quietly growing.

In these difficult times, may we also be bearers of hope, builders of peace, and friends to all who are struggling. In the spirit of love that holds us all, amen.

Response

All shall be well. All shall be well. All manner of things shall be well. All shall be well.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Plenty Good Room
Mark Hayes

*Doxology

**Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah.
Halle, halle, hall-lu-jah. Halle-lu-jah, hallelujah.**

*Prayer of Dedication

God of all creation, we offer these gifts so that your love may be magnified. Amen.

*Hymn

When We Face An Unknown Future

When we face an unknown future that we can't imagine yet, when the closeness we have treasured turns from blessing into threat — In this time of separation when we miss the life we've known, may we hear your voice proclaiming: "I am here! You're not alone!"

May we cherish those around us as we never have before. May we think much less of perfect; may we learn what matters more. May we hear our neighbors' suffering; may we see our neighbors' pain. May we learn new ways of offering life and health and hope again.

God, when illness comes to threaten, and when so much here goes wrong, may we know this thing for certain — that your love is sure and strong. You're beside us in our suffering — and when times are surely tough, we may face an unknown future, but it's filled, God, with your love.

Intentions and Benediction

Postlude

Voluntary on "Leoni"
17th century melody

The light of Christ is carried into the world.

*Please rise in body or spirit

Opportunities for Prayer

Prayer cards are in the pew racks; completed cards may be placed in the offering plate or at the candle table.

You are invited to light a candle at the candle table.

The Prayer Wall hangs on the lectern. Circular paper is provided on which you ay write your prayer and attach it to the wall.

Altar Artist: Phyllis Rhinehart

Acolyte: Marcella Leshner

Cover art: Senior African American Woman Hands Holding Rose Flower, photo by Spotmatik