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Sunday, March 6, 2016, 10:00am
Theme: Returning to God

✠ indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz – Layla – by Jim Gordon & Eric Clapton*

WELCOME & GREETING VISITORS (*Leader*)

✠GREETING ONE ANOTHER (Please feel free to move around)

SPIRIT LINES (Announcements)

CHRIST CANDLE, SILENCE, & TONE BOWL

INTROIT: *You Are Holy (Projected)*

MV#45

CALL TO WORSHIP: (*Projected – Responsive*)

One: God welcomes you to this place – if it's your first time, if you were here last week, or if you're returning after a long time away.

All: We are happy to be in God's presence!

One: God's with us on our Lenten journey, providing the nourishment and love that we need. We remember God journeying with God's people out of Egypt and through the desert.

All: We praise God and remember God's faithfulness.

One: On their journey home, God greeted God's people in the promised land with new food to replace their meals of manna. God was doing a new thing in their lives.

All: We're looking for the new thing that God is doing in our lives today.

One: God welcomes you to this place – where all will find love, forgiveness, and restoration.

All: We celebrate in God's presence!

OPENING PRAYER: (Leader, *Projected*)

(Invite everyone to hold hands open and lift them to God)

Loving God, we have journeyed here from diverse places and stages in life. All are welcome here. We open ourselves to what you have in store for us this day. We approach you with humility. We unlock the parts of ourselves that we have kept hidden from you.

Open our minds to the message you have to share with us today. May we have ears to hear and receive.

Open our spirits to your grace, your reconciling love, and your faithfulness in times of doubt and fear.

Open our bodies to the comfort of your embrace, that we might feel your presence in relaxed shoulders, soft hands, and deep breaths. Amen.

✠HYMN: *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* (*Projected*)

VU#602

(Children and Youth are invited to join with their leaders at one of the entrances to the Sanctuary)

Open Minds

SCRIPTURE: *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NRSV)*

Scripture Reader: Melinda-Rae Lyse

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir – Everlasting God – by Larson*

THE MESSAGE: *“No Strings Attached”*

Open Hands

†HYMN: *God of the Bible (Projected)*

MV#28

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *“A Way Forward”*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS *(Leader)*

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Tithes, Offerings, & Prayers.

(Please print clearly and place your Prayer Slips in the Prayer Baskets.)

†OFFERTORY: *All Is Done for the Glory (Projected)*

MV#34

†OFFERTORY PRAYER *(Unison, Projected)*

Loving and reconciling God, you provided food for your people in the desert. You quench our spiritual thirst and comfort our weary souls when we turn toward you. No matter how far away we journey, we only need to take one step toward you, and we are embraced by your love and compassion. We bring these gifts to you with a spirit of humility. O God, you who make all things new, transform these gifts into expressions of love, justice, and peace in our congregation and beyond these walls. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER: *Where Two or Three Are Gathered (Projected)*

MV#14

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYER OF JESUS

Open Hearts to Each Other and the World

†COMMISSIONING and BENEDECTION: *(Leader)*

†HYMN: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (Projected)*

VU#266

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Bob, Rev. Tracy, Kari Orosz, The Adult Choir, Aiden Rice, John Robertson, Roger Anderson, Linda Miller, Diane & John Latter, Lyn Tonkin, Melinda-Rae Lyse, Terri Poirier, Cathy Rivard, Heather Robertson, Kristin Raugust, Kylen Glass.