

Change

Congregational responses are in **bold**.

Call to Worship: Reading: He Is Here (see below)

Opening Prayer: *Say "please join me in the opening prayer"*

We have gathered together today, O Lord, because our spirits long to come into your presence. You alone are the hope and joy we seek for the living of our lives. You alone are the change we long for. O Lord, do not turn away from us, but come and dwell in our midst today. Reach Into every heart and soul that has assembled in this place and be gracious to us. Answer our heartfelt prayers and send us away to proclaim the glory of your name in all the world. Amen.

Hymn: We Believe in God Almighty

Call to Confession:

For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.
Let us confess our need for God's saving love.

Prayer of Confession:

O Lord of compassion and mercy, we confess that one of Your greatest gifts to us has so often been the source of our greatest trials. You have given us the gift of choice. We can choose between right and wrong, between love and hate. We can take the high road or the low road. We can reach out in your name or we can retreat in the name of selfishness. O Great God of grace, help us to choose with clarity, compassion and commitment. Cleanse us from every wrong and give us the joy of making choices that bring honor to the name of Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Assurance:

Beloved, our Lord was rejected, taunted, beaten and crucified, and raised from the dead on the third day. Though we fall short, we believe and share the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we share in God's forgiveness.

Praise the Lord

The Lord Be Praised!

Song Response

Glory be to the Father; and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end, Amen. Amen.

Reading: (The words to the song You're Not Alone by Meredith Andrews to be read between two people) (See below)

Anthem: Lord I Lift Your Name On High

Scripture: John 12:19-26 from The Message

Bringing of our Gifts:

Help us who have received so freely from you to give as freely in return. Allow us to have the pleasure of giving as well as the happiness of receiving. Let us now receive our offering.

Prayer of Dedication:

Along with these offerings, O Lord, we bring a willingness to be shaped by your Spirit. Give us grace to grow in all the ways you desire for our lives and courage to turn away from all that would separate us from you. As we give, may we know the transforming power of our love.

Pastoral Prayer:

Message: Change

Hymn: I was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

Benediction

He Is Here

He is here. He is right here. In this room, and in your heart.

He is near. Nearer than breath, than heartbeat. Nearer than you are to you. Closer than second chance, or next opportunity. Closer than tonight or yesterday.

He is real. More real than touch, see, hear, smell, or taste. More real than reality. He is our reality. More real than joy, pain, sorrow, or the love of being in love.

He is present. Like space, wind, time, silence, and night.

He is waiting. Like creation, like words on the tip of tongue. Like songs that have yet to be sung.

He is beauty. In oranges, blues, every hue, every shade. Sunset and sunrise whisper His name.

He is holy. Cannot be touched, or explained. Like sweet seconds of prayer; like grandmother on her knees, with her wood floor bare.

He is old hymns. The extending of limbs stretched across trees; stripes to heal disease.

He is Son. Distinctly three, distinctly one. The only one, the only wise, the only resurrector of lives.

He is king. And no earthly throne can house him, no amount of elegant words can espouse him.

He is moment and voice, power of choice. In words and deed, in fruit and seed. Nailed hands, and nailed feet; innocent wounds that bleed.

He is believe. He is all. He is call and purpose. Everything we can sacrifice- he is worth it and more, much more. Our good deeds that are mere pennies, will never even the score.

He is behold and wow. He is who, what, when, why and how. He is the one who puts on the show. He is the one that we come to see. He is a soul's cry and a sinner's plea. He is the epitome that no one light a candle to; or come within a million foot pole of.

He is above. He is a father's love. Maker of ways, of earth and wind, ancient of days.

Have no fear

Have no fear

Have no fear

Our God is here.

Your Not Alone- by Meredith Andrews

Reader 1: I searched for love when the night came and it closed in. I was alone, but you found me where I was hiding and now I'll never ever be the same, it was the sweetest voice that called my name, saying

Reader 2: You're not alone for I am here, let me wipe away your every fear. My love, I've never left your side, I have seen you through the darkest night, and I'm the One who's loved you all your life. All your life.

Reader 1: You cry yourself to sleep because the hurt is real and the pain cuts deep. All hope seems lost with heartache your closest friend and everyone else long gone. You've had to face the music on your own, but there is a sweeter song that calls you home, saying

Reader 2: You're not alone for I am here, let me wipe away your every fear. My love, I've never left your side, I have seen you through the darkest night, and I'm the One who's loved you all your life. All your life.