

By Faith

Congregational responses are in **bold**.

Opening prayer: Say- please join me in the opening prayer:

God of Gods:

We come to worship today to hear your good news,

to hear of faith, hope and love

ringing out of Your kingdom.

We know that doubt, fear and hatred

can shake even the strongest.

Shape us into faithful people,

fill us with Your love that passes all understanding.

We pray this together in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Call to Worship: Say- please join me in the call to worship:

Leader: By faith, we trust that we were created in the image of God.

All: **By faith, we hope and dream and make plans.**

Leader: By faith, we face our fears and insecurities.

All: **By faith, we till the soil of our lives and plant seeds of love.**

Leader: By faith, we follow where God leads.

All: **By faith, we trust that God is present in our midst.**

Leader and All: **By faith, we gather in this place to worship God together.**

Hymn: When Our Confidence Is Shaken

Call to Confession:

Faith, the author of Hebrews tells us, "is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen". It is by faith that we are able to confess our sins before God and each other. It is by faith that we trust in God's love, mercy and forgiveness. Please join me in the prayer of confession:

Prayer of confession:

Almighty God,

We are not always people who live by faith. We know that we were created in your image, but we treat ourselves and each other in ways that do not honor your presence within us. We know your laws and your commandments, but we choose to disobey you and to act in ways that harm our neighbors. We hear your call to reach out to those most in need, but instead, we turn our backs on them and on you. Forgive us, O God, and help us day by day to become more faithful followers and the people you created us to be. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness:

What we have hoped for is true. What we cannot see has been made known. God's forgiveness is certain and sure. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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: Words to the Song "In Better Hands" by Natalie Grant

It's hard to stand on shifting sand

It's hard to shine in the shadows of the night

You can't be free if you don't reach for help

And you can't love if you don't love yourself

But there is hope when my faith runs out...

Because I'm in better hands now.

It's like the sun is shining when the rain is pouring down

It's like my soul is flying though my feet are on the ground.

So, take my heart of mine because there's no doubt

I'm in better hands now.

I am strong all because of you
I stand in awe of every mountain that you move
For I am changed- yesterday is gone
I am safe from this moment on...
And there's no fear when the night comes around
Because I'm in better hands now.

It's like the sun is shining when the rain is pouring down
It's like my soul is flying though my feet are on the ground.
So, take my heart of mine because there's no doubt
I'm in better hands now.

It's like the sun is shining when the rain is pouring down
It's like my soul is flying though my feet are on the ground.
It's like the world is silent though I know it isn't true
It's like the breath of Jesus is right her in this room
So, take this heart of mine because there's no doubt
I'm in better hands now.

Anthem: Amazing Grace (youth on a violin)

Bringing of Our Gifts:

We don't always know how much money we have, or how much we will need;

In these difficult, economic times we are tempted to hoard our money for ourselves.

In this offering we have the opportunity to show our faith, that our God will supply all our needs.

Let us now receive our offering.

Prayer of Dedication:

We walk by faith,

we live by faith,

we give by faith.

God of great gifts,

you have given us so much,

accept these gifts from our hands,

our faithful response to your abundant grace. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Reader 1: By faith, the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so, they were drowned.

Reader 2: By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.

Reader 1: By faith, Rahab, the prostitute, did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

Reader 2: And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, or David and Samuel and the prophets- who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became might in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Reader 1: Woman received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, and tormented- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in caves and holes in the ground.

Speaker 2: Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Speaker 1: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of

the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Message: By Faith

Hymn: Hymn of Promise

Benediction