Prelude

Welcome Psalm 78:12-16

<u>Introit</u>

Call To Worship

Invocation

Hymn "Come Christians Join to Sing" #267GTG (See following page)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Creator of all life, in the face of the rising death toll from the pandemic and our fears about when this virus' stranglehold on our nation and world will end, it is hard to believe. In the face of another victim of brutality and racial injustice, it is hard to believe. In the face of the incivility of our political and social dialogue, wherein there is little self-reflection and a lots self-righteousness, it is hard to believe. In the face of our powerlessness as our neighbors suffer through natural disasters, we find it hard to believe. In the face of hungry children, homeless women and men, in the face of problems that seem bigger than our prayers, it is hard to believe. Holy God, help our unbelief. May we continually rediscover your love and grace and trust in your power to redeem and restore and renew. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

GLORIA

Prayer for Illumination

<u>1st Scripture Reading:</u> Matthew 21:23-32

<u>Anthem</u> "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of Heaven" Asher Neville

2nd Scripture Reading Exodus 17:1-7

Sermon Strike the Rock

Affirmation of Faith (in unison) A Declaration of Faith, Ch.2, pt. 2

God called all God had made good. We declare that the universe of matter, energy, and life is God's good creation in all its parts. Even though evil has emerged within God's creation, we may work and play in it and explore it with wonder and joy. Evil is whatever works against the loving purpose of God for human beings and all creation. Natural forces may have evil effects. Sinful human choices produce evil results. Evil may become institutionalized in our social structures. The power of evil to hurt and destroy, to cut off the possibilities of full human life, calls into question the power and goodness of God. Whether we understand evil personally or impersonally, we cannot explain how it originated in a world made good. But we can affirm that evil is God's enemy as well as ours. In Christ, God shared our agony over evil and broke the back of its power by bearing the worst it could do. God works continually to overcome evil. In the end it will be utterly defeated. Therefore we have courage to endure evil, to learn from it, and combat it.

Prayers of the People

Call to Offering

Prayer of Dedication

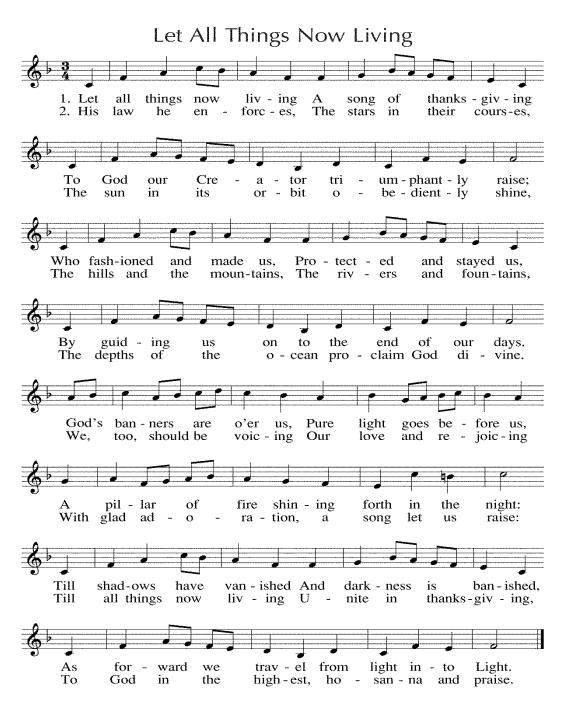
Hymn "Let All Things Now Living" #37 GTG (See following page)

Charge and Benediction

Choral Amen

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING





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