



*Bold italic letters* indicate congregational responses.

# Service for the Lord's Day

## — Gathering —

**PRELUDE** Joshua Allen

**WELCOME** Rev. Michele R. Goff

### OPENING SENTENCES

Come, let us sing God's praise with creation!

***Praise God, sun and moon!***

***Praise God, shining stars!***

Come, let us sing with Simeon and Anna!

***Our eyes have seen salvation,***

***God's gift for all people!***

Come let us sing God's praise together

***and worship the Christ-child born for us!***

**MUSIC** Joshua Allen

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** Liturgist, Steve Lowe

### CONFESSION

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

***O God, in Christ you were born a humble child, love-made-flesh, God-with-us. Forgive us when we fail to follow in your way of humility, love, and peace. Free us to see your Light reflecting in the faces of friends and family, neighbors and strangers, enemies and friends, and make us shine forth with your love.***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Rev. Michele R. Goff

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! ***Thanks be to God.***

## — Word —

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Steve Lowe

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**SCRIPTURE** Rev. Michele R. Goff

Our first reading today is from the book of Psalms, chapter 148.

Treasure these words and ponder them in your heart.

This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Our next reading is from the gospel according to Luke chapter 2, verses 22 through 40. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. ***Thanks be to God.***

**SERMON** Rev. Michele R. Goff

### DESCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth! ***Amen.***

## — Response —

**MUSIC** Joshua Allen

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Steve Lowe

Rejoicing in the gift of Jesus Christ our Savior, we pray for this world that God so loves, saying: Emmanuel, God-with-us, ***hear our prayer.***

With gratitude for your love, we pray for the church . . .

Help us to worship and praise you with sun, moon, and stars; wild animals and sea monsters; creatures that fly and creep—all giving thanks together for your overflowing gifts of grace. Emmanuel, God-with-us, ***hear our prayer.***

With gratitude for your love, we pray for the world . . .

Bring peace and healing to the cities and countries that have been torn apart, again and again, by violence and despair.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, ***hear our prayer.***

With gratitude for your love, we pray for this community . . .

Fill our lives with your compassion, that we may be an outpouring of love for all people, helping them to know how deeply you care for them.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, ***hear our prayer.***

With gratitude for your love, we pray for loved ones . . .

As we have received such grace from you, may we share that grace with others. Even in us, let them see your face and know your care.

Emmanuel, God-with-us, ***hear our prayer.***

Holy One, as you have come to dwell among us, show us how to live as your faithful people, sharing the good news of your grace with all; through Christ, your Word made flesh. ***Amen.***