



Preparation for Worship

For most of my life I have struggled to find God, to know God, to love God. I have tried hard to follow the guidelines of the spiritual life—pray always, work for others, read the Scriptures—and to avoid the many temptations to dissipate myself. I have failed many times but always tried again, even when I was close to despair.

Now I wonder whether I have sufficiently realized that during all this time God has been trying to find me, to know me, and to love me. The question is not “How am I to find God?” but “How am I to let myself be found by [God]?” The question is not “How am I to know God?” but “How am I to let myself be known by God?” And, finally, the question is not “How am I to love God?” but “How am I to let myself be loved by God?” God is looking into the distance for me, trying to find me, and longing to bring me home.”

—Henri J. M. Nouwen
from *The Return of the Prodigal*

Prelude

Andante
Rob Passow, Organist

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

We Gather in God's Name

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the friendship register.

† Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Song of Praise

Because of Your Love

Praise Band

Call to Worship

One Voice: We come to this place to search for God.

Many Voices: But God is already searching for us.

One Voice: We come to this place to speak to God,

Many Voices: But God is already speaking to us.

One Voice: Let us worship and listen for God,

Many Voices: Who calls us together and leads us home.

† Hymn #301

Let Us Build a House

† Prayer of Confession

Sometimes, O God, we forget people, or we toss them aside—the difficult ones, the needy ones, the ones that are hard to spend time with, the ones who confront us. And sometimes when we do things like that, it's not really about the other people, but about us. We are uncomfortable, or we feel guilty, or we follow brighter, shinier people, or we worry about what will make us look good. We are in such desperate need of your forgiveness. We need to be forgiven for our sin, for our mistakes, for mistaking what the world values with what you value. Help us to be better, and to see more clearly, and to care more thoroughly. In Christ we pray. Amen.

† Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting unto everlasting. As far as the East is from the West, so far has God removed our transgression from us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.

† Response #582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

We Proclaim God's Word

Children's Message

Scott Peterson

Anthem

Let There Be Joy
Chancel Choir

Schram

Scripture Lesson

Luke 15:1-10

† Hymn #187

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Sermon

God and the Gates Fallacy

Rev. Dr. Ben Trawick

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Amazing Grace

G. Shearing (1919-2011)

† Response #609

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

† Prayer of Dedication

Sharron Dreyer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

We Depart To Serve God

† Parting Hymn #547

Go My Children with My Blessing

† Benediction

Postlude

Psalm 19 (The Heavens declare)
Rob Passow, Organist

B. Marcello (1686-1739)



***The Flowers in the Sanctuary
are Dedicated***

***To the Glory of God
Your greeters today were
Eileen and Greg Simmermacher.***



***WE ARE VERY GLAD YOU CHOSE TO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!
PLEASE SIGN OUR FRIENDSHIP REGISTER SO THAT WE CAN
GREET YOU BY NAME AND CALL ON YOU IF YOU DESIRE.***

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOMED IN WORSHIP - ...Even if they fidget! Worship Bags are available outside the sanctuary with books, a children's bulletin, and crayons; and our Nursery is downstairs in Room 5 for infants through 3-year-olds.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP - After the Children's Message during the service, children have their own worship experience downstairs, with *Play 'n' Worship* for preschoolers, and *Bridges to Worship* for K-3rd graders. Please pick up your children before Fellowship—K-3rd graders will be in Room 14, and younger children in Room 5.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH - Classes for 5-year-olds through adults are offered at 9:15 a.m. from the 2nd Sunday in September through the 3rd Sunday in May, with a summer adult class in June. Youth groups meet during the school year and engage in mission work during the Summer. Please check the schedules on the bulletin boards in the main level hall.

GRACE INSIGHTS - Learn more about our church, our mission, and our denomination, PC(USA), in classes that form throughout the year. If you are considering membership or you have interest in learning more, please speak to one of our pastors or Elder Valerie Wenderoth. You will find Grace a very welcoming place.

PLEASE ASK ANYONE FOR HELP OR DIRECTIONS!

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OFFICE HOURS

**MON-FRI 9:00-4:30
CLOSED ON FEDERAL HOLIDAYS**

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