

WELCOME:

OPENING PRAYER:

A Hard, Deep Call to Obedience

You are the God who makes extravagant promises.

We relish your great promises of fidelity and presence and solidarity,
and we exude in them.

Only to find out, always too late,
that your promise always comes in the midst of a hard, deep call to obedience.

You are the God who calls people like us,
and the long list of mothers and fathers before us,
who trusted the promise enough to keep the call.

So we give you thanks that you are a calling God,
who calls always to dangerous new places.
We pray enough of your grace and mercy among us
that we may be among those who believe your promises
enough to respond to your call.

We pray in the one who embodied your promise
and enacted your call, even Jesus. Amen.

~ written by Walter Brueggemann, in *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth: Prayers of Walter Brueggemann*, (Augsburg Fortress, 2003, p. 90). Posted on **Consider Your Call**. <http://www.consideryourcall.org/sites/default/files/CYC-Media/Toolbox/Materials/Worship-Toolbox.pdf>

GATHERING SONG: "Hosanna (Praise is Rising)"

Verse 1

Praise is rising
Eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring
Hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

Pre-Chorus

'Cause when we see You
We find strength to face the day
In Your presence
All our fears are washed away
Washed away

Chorus

Hosanna, hosanna
You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna

Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Verse 2

Hear the sound of
Hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your Kingdom
Broken lives are made new
You make us new

Pre-Chorus

Chorus (2 times)

CCLI Song # 4662491
Brenton Brown | Paul Baloche
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FIRST READING: Psalm 62:5-12 *Reader Karen Koslow*

⁵For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.

⁶He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

⁸Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

⁹Those of low estate are but a breath,
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰Put no confidence in extortion,
and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

¹¹Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,

¹²and steadfast love belongs to you, O LORD.
For you repay to all
according to their work.



*Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Gilbert, AZ*

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Celtic Alleluia" ELW #174

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia

Text and music: Fintan O'Carrooll and Christopher Walker

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor Thaddeus Book

SERMON SONG: "Will You Come and Follow Me" (ELW #798)

1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?

3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

(inspired by Jonah 3:1-10)

Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community.

But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here.

We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience.

Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies

for fear they just might become friends. **Amen.**



*Desert Cross Lutheran Church
Tempe, AZ*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

The one who calls us to this place
calls us to reconciliation through grace.

God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit.

Know that you are forgiven

and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. **Amen**

~ written by the Rev. Madison Shockley, in **Reluctant Evangelists: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany.** Rev. Shockley is pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, CA. Posted on http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

OFFERING:

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"Near to the Heart of God / Children of the Heavenly Father" - Pam Brown (Flute)

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

The peace of Christ be with you.

Let us pray.

God of light and darkness,
through water and Word
you shine your light into the darkness of our lives.
We give thanks for this incredible gift.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of hope and fear,
you walk with us through the challenges which surround us.
Wash away our anxiety by your promised presence,
and set us free from despair.
Send your healing peace and unity into our communities.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of church and world,
in baptism you unify yourself with our world.
Keep us from seeing your love as a hiding place.
Send us to follow your call to infuse the world with your unity and justice. Lord, in your
mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of health and illness,
there is nothing that separates us from your love.
Inspire us to bring your health to the sick,
your encouragement to the discouraged,
your promise to the dying,
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of life and death,
all that exists is from you, and for you.
Enable us to trust your baptismal promise,
and serve this hurting world.

*~ adapted from Rick Pryce, and posted on **Rick Pryce.** <http://rickpryce.wordpress.com/>*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.



SENDING SONG: "Everlasting God"

Verse

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

Pre-Chorus

Our God You reign forever
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus

You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

(Repeat All)

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BENEDICTION:

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
And the Holy Spirit, the comforter +
keep you in peace. Amen.

Musicians: Daniel Decker (vocalist), Michael Lottes (vocalist), and Pam Brown (Flute)