

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

John Innes

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Rev. Mares

FAITH IN ACTION

Alpha House

Gail Einhaus

* CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 119:33–41

One: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

All: and I will observe it to the end.

One: Give me understanding, that I may keep it with my whole heart.

All: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

One: See, I have longed for your precepts;

All: in your righteousness give me life.

One: Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord,

All: your salvation, according to your promise.

* HYMN 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, the path on which you have endeavored to teach us to walk
is well marked across the generations.

Time and again you have called us to turn from the ways

of narrow self-interest and hard-hearted indifference and to choose life, for the sake of generations to come.

Yet time and again we have strayed from the path you have shown us,

ignored the signs of pride and greed, given ourselves a pass from doing what we know is right.

We come before you now to confess our need of your guidance;

we long for your help with the burdens of our failures of will and courage, of compassion and love.

Forgive us, we pray –

and call us back again to the way toward the life which you have opened to us in Jesus . . .

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE

KYRIE ELEISON



ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

You are invited to greet one another with a sign of the peace God intends for us, saying "The peace of Christ be with you," and responding, "And also with you." (During this flu season, instead of handshakes we recommend passing the peace with fist bumps, elbows or peace signs.)

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.**

This is Stanza 4 of Hymn 444, *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* (DETROIT).

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marilynn Simpson

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 5:38–48

The grass withers; the flower fades—
the word of our God endures forever.

SERMON

Higher Ground

Rev. Dr. Spalding

RESPONDING

* HYMN 410

God Is Calling through the Whisper

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Johnson

Offertory

Hymn Prelude on “Ellacombe”

Flor Peeters

* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

See Communion Card

SENDING

* HYMN 815

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

FESTAL SONG

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Please sing twice:

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
Working, for a world that’s new, faithful when we hear Christ’s call.**

This is Hymn #765, *May the God of Hope Go with Us* (ARGENTINA).

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Prelude on “Ellacombe”

Alfred V. Fedak