

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Gathering Music

Amazing Grace

Melody Bober ©MMVIII Alfred Music

Call to Worship

One: Beloved, when our bodies feel unable and incapable, and the voices all around us disparage and criticize our bodies as weak and worthless, God calls to us...

All: Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.

One: When we persist in the false belief that we should and must do everything on our own, never asking for help and persisting in our drive for full independence, God calls to us...

All: Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.

One: When we feel shame because we need help, and the deep vulnerability of our needs pierces our hearts, God calls to us...

All: Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.

One: Listen! Pay attention! God calls to us in our weakness, not to erase our frailties or bemoan all the things society may tell us we lack, but to empower us within the vulnerability of our humanness, naming us *Beloved* in the fullness of who we are.

All: May we open our hearts in worship to receive the goodness in our weakness and the power in the strength of God's love for all of God's vulnerable creation. Amen.

Introit You Are My Hiding Place TFWS 2055

Welcome

† Opening Hymn

How Firm a Foundation (v1-2, 4-5)

UMH 529

- How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
 What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
- 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
- 4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;

the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5. "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Blessing for Young Hearts

Prayers of the People

A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying. Online Worshipers may type prayer requests in the Live Chat, taking care for privacy.

Pastoral Prayer

WE HEAR OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Scripture

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 (NRSVue)

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem Guide My Feet TFWS 2208

Message In Weakness and in Strength Rev. Bob Rhodes

WE RESPOND TO THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Response to the Word

Invitation to the Offering

OffertoryAmazing GraceMark Hayes©2006 by Hal Leonard

† **Doxology** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow UMH 94

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful One, we are tired in body and soul. You teach us that your grace is sufficient, but we yearn for something more tangible. You assure us that your strength is made perfect in weakness, but our weakness feels like it is killing us. Give us humble hearts this day, that we may see beyond the surface and behold the grace you hold for us when we rest completely in your care. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

One: God's grace is sufficient for us as we take nothing for the journey and place our trust in God. God's power is made perfect in weakness as we see beyond our limitations and seek to do God's will. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion Musical Setting A

UMH 17

Online worshipers are invited to select elements including bread and juice (or similar) from their homes to participate in Holy Communion. Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.

The 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 tresspasses, 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. Amen.

Communion Song

As We Gather at Your Table

TFWS 2268

 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

- 2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
- 3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Prayer After Communion

WE FOLLOW CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

† Closing Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

UMH 400

- Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
 Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
 Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
- Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
- 3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

† Benediction

Postlude

Amazing Grace

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Liturgical elements from The Abingdon Worship Annual and Discipleship Ministries (UMC).	
Flowers:	From Tom and Cherie Huse in Celebration of the summer season and our freedoms!
Liturgist:	Deborah Butera
Organist:	Robert Wuertz
Pianist:	Rebecca Cosford
Ushers:	Rod Betts, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Russell Toppi
	ers: Colin Crowder, Evan Crowder, Paul Crowder
Tech Team:	AJ Prat, Cam Rhodes