

## OPENING SENTENCES

Whether we stray like sheep  
or follow faithfully,

**God welcomes us here.**

Whether we seek healing and wholeness,  
or stand ready to extend compassion,

**God welcomes us here.**

Whether exhausted from journeys  
across rough terrain,  
or renewed and refreshed,  
our souls at peace,

we gather to hear the good news:

**The kingdom of heaven is at hand!**

## HYMN # 645 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
The God of all creation,  
The God of power, the God of love,  
The God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
And every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,  
But, through all grief distressing,  
An ever-present help and stay,  
Our peace and joy and blessing,  
As with a mother’s tender hand  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

God saves us despite us being unworthy of that salvation. In response to that grace, let us confess the ways we have fallen short. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sins.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you send us  
to proclaim the good news of your kingdom  
to all who are lost,  
all who are afflicted,  
all who are captive,  
all who have been cast out.

But we are content to proclaim  
the in-breaking of your kingdom  
within familiar communities  
where we know others will receive this news  
with nods of agreement.  
Push us beyond what is comfortable and safe,  
and strengthen us for lives of compassionate  
service,  
that we might be the laborers you call us to be.

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God pardons those who humbly repent and truly believe the gospel. Since Jesus died for us,  
we have peace with God, to whom be praise and honor forever.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

## † GLORIA PATRI # 581

**SOLO**      “The God of Love My Shepherd Is”      -Elizabeth Humphrey

**HYMN # 48**      Rain Down (sung 2X)

Rain down; rain down;  
Rain down your love on your people.  
Rain down; rain down:  
Rain down your love, God of life.

**SCRIPTURE READING:**      Psalm 100

**SERMON**

**HYMN # 612**      “We Praise You, O God”

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion or tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o’er take us, you will not forsake us,  
And with your help, L Lord, our struggles we win.

**OFFERTORY**                      “Air”    -Handel

**HYMN # 838**      “Standing on the Promises”

Standing on the promises of Christ my king,  
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will every sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,  
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing,  
I’m standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
Listening every moment to the Spirit’s call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,  
Standing on the promise of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing,  
I’m standing on the promises of God.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**                      “Hornpipe”    -Handel