



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

MARCH 17, 2024

**PRELUDE** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"  
(Robert A. Hobby)

**CHANT**

**PRELUDE** "Largo" from Winter  
(Vivaldi, arr. Sparke)

**OPENING HYMN** "Be Thou My Vision"  
(#502 vs. 1-3)

**LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**OPENING PRAYER**

All: Christ our Savior, you call us by name, leading us from death into eternal life. Awaken and unbind us by your Word, so that we may live and grow in faith, sharing your saving love with others; for you are the resurrection and the life. Amen.

**SONG OF PREPARATION** "Lord Have Mercy (For What We Have Done)"

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We love you, our Lord, Savior and Friend, but we do not always follow your guidance. Instead, we wander down our own paths of selfishness, judgement, vanity and greed. As a parent forgives their disobedient child, forgive our foolish ways. Shower us with your mercy and nudge us back onto the paths of righteousness and grace. We pray in Jesus' name; Amen.

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC** "By Faith"  
(Getty/Nichols)

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** John 14:15-17

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"  
(#361 vs. 1-3)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

John 15:12-17

**MESSAGE** Growing in God: "Jesus, My Friend"

**OFFERING & MUSICAL OFFERING** "Friend in Jesus"  
(Ingram, Cain, Matt)

**PEACEMAKERS PRAYER**

All: Lord of all nations, you say, "blessed are the peacemakers because they will become children of God." We pray today for people who have devoted their lives to negotiating peace in times of conflict; for those who risk their well-being to broker trust amongst warring factions.

We ask you guide us on peacemaking paths so we might have positive influences on our community. Events on the news are troubling, but even more so are those who use atrocities to gain favor. Help us set aside partisan views so we can focus on the common good. Strip away biases that distance us from our neighbors, especially neighbors who do not look or think like us.

Merciful One, make us instruments of your peace, sowing love where there is hate, bringing tolerance where there is animosity, and demonstrating Christ's acceptance where there is exclusion. We pray this in the name of one who taught his disciples to pray:

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** "Prelude and Fugue no. 6, op. 1025"  
(Carson Cooman)

Pastor  
Assisting Pastor  
Director of Worship  
Director of Media  
Organist/Accompanist  
Audio  
Streaming  
Worship Band

Ensembles

Scripture reader  
Slides

**Geoff Kohler**  
**Mofid Wasef**  
**Elizabeth Virkler**  
**Luke Graham**  
**Ronél Wishnuff**  
**Riley McKenna**  
**Lee & Berdi Meehan**  
**Joey Carano**  
**Pete Harrison**  
**Nathan Hubbard**  
**Corinne Milling**  
**Chancel Choir**  
**Sanctuary Orchestra**  
**Kristine Martin**  
**Paula Vires**

To Give:

