

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Julie

OFFERTORY

Be Thou Within Us, Horman

****DOXOLOGY (tune: *Old Hundredth*)

**Praise God who calls all humankind;
Praise Christ for loving ties that bind;
Praise Spirit making all things new;
One Love, One God, we honor you!**

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Julie

God of Love, inspire us to live with open arms and open hearts. We know the disappointment of being let down by family members and friends; we have experienced the damage done by selfish acts and misguided intentions. But true stewardship is to keep our hearts open to love with the compassion of Christ to guide us. Amen

****HYMN NCH #583

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

All

Like a mother who has borne us, held us close in her delight,
Fed us freely from her body,
God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us, grasped our hand and been our guide,
lifted us and healed our sorrows,
God has walked with us in life.

Though as children we have wandered, placed our trust in power and might,
left behind our brothers, sisters,
God still calls us into life.

When we offer food and comfort, grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
tread the path of peace and justice,
God still walks with us in life.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-2 and 11-32

Julie

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say

to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

MESSAGE *"The Big Secret Hidden In Plain Sight"* Paul

****HYMN NCH 23 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* All

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven.
There is no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.

****BENEDICTION Paul

****SUNG BENEDICTION *World Peace Prayer* All

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe!

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE

RECESSIONAL *They are Gone and In Babilone*, Thomas Keesecker

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher
liturgist
musicians

Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
Julie Krueger

Karen Caton, Martha Jones, Shannon Jones, Chancel Choir