

Crowds pursue Jesus even into deserted places. Charismatic people often gather crowds in such hidden places in order to garner a rebellion. Jesus doesn't lead a crowd into such places; people seek him on their own. Is that how we can determine whether it's a "demon" or "an angel" who speaks to us – by who it is we follow into that "deserted place"?

GATHERING

*Indicates those who are able to please stand. **Bold indicates reading in unison.**

Chiming of the Hour (Please remain seated.) Mark Sherriff

Welcome Rev. Rosemary Welch

Prelude *Sweet Hour of Prayer* William Bradbury
Jennifer Sandy, Organist/Pianist

*Song (89) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praise to our God.

God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

God determines the number of stars and gives them all their names.

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden and casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

God covers the heavens with clouds and brings rain so grass will grow on the hills.

The Lord gives food to the animals and to the young ravens when they cry.

God's delight is not in the strength of the horse or the speed of the runner.

Instead, the Lord takes pleasure in those who are in awe of God.

God is pleased by those who trust God's steadfast love.

Praise the Lord!

*Song (2236) *Gather Us In*

PROCLAIMING

Prayer of Confession

Patient God, there are times when we have been too busy to stop.

We have hurt ourselves by becoming disconnected from you.

(silent prayer)

There are times when we have hurried along.

We have not seen those in our neighborhood reaching out for help, for healing, for love.

(silent prayer)

There are times when our noisy activity drowns your call.

And we can't hear the cries of the lonely, the forgotten, and the ignored in our community. Receive our confession. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The 1st Lesson

Isaiah 40:21-31

Vicki Bibb

Unison Prayer for Illumination

Erica Ridgell

O Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as Scripture is read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

The 2nd Lesson

Mark 1:29-39

Children's Message

"Response"

Rev. Rosemary Welch
and Erica Ridgell

Announcements and *Passing the Peace of Christ

Bob Braden

Make sure you have registered your attendance. Greet your neighbors, especially those who may be visiting and looking for a church home. Remain standing for the following song.

* Song (2030)

First Song of Isaiah

Message

Angels and Demons

Rev. Rosemary Welch

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (895)

Giving Back to God

Come Find Forgiveness and Love
Chancel Choir

Besign/Price

If you are visiting with us, please do not feel obligated to give an offering today. We are glad to have you as our guest.

*Song of Thanksgiving (94)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Taking the Bread and Cup

The Great Thanksgiving (p 13)

The Lord's Prayer (sung responsively)

Breaking the Bread/Giving the Bread and Cup

Communion Hymn (617)

I Come with Joy

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God who casts out demons, we thank you for the world you have created, for the gift of life and for giving yourself to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you that you have fed us this bread and cup and united us with Christ and each other. We are yours, and yours is the glory, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

*Song (2153)

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Blessing

Go with the ways of wisdom for the Holy One:

faithfulness, loyalty, reverence, stillness, respect.

Go with ways of wisdom for community:

mutuality, honor, generosity, truthfulness, contentment.

Go in the wisdom of Christ that enables all creation to flourish in the ways of love:

forgiving, healing, restoring, creating, life!

Postlude

He Leadeth Me

William B. Bradbury

Jennifer Sandy, Pianist/Organist

Wisdom from the Outside

Thanks to words, we have been able to rise above the brutes, and thanks to words, we have often sunk to the level of the demons. ~Aldous Huxley