

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

Pianist Joseph Cough, Jr.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When the world around me is disturbing, where do I turn?

**Many: A psalmist says, "The Lord is my light and my salvation."**

One: When I am afraid, what can I count on?

**Many: "The Lord is a fortress protecting my life."**

One: We gather in the light of God's protection.

**Many: We come to pray, praise and sing.**

All: Let us worship God together!

\*OPENING HYMN *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* #182

INVOKING THE HOLY

Gracious God, prepare us to receive you. May our eyes behold you in those around us. May our ears receive your word. May our hearts be open to your teaching and leading. In this precious moment, may we know you in new ways.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving Protector, in times of chaos, we can be startled by sudden declarations, distracted by claims of solutions to problems. Forgive us, God, for our wandering from you. Forgive us, when our own fears draw other people's attention away from you. Help us to act, not from anxiety,**

**but from faith in your certain presence. Help us to slow down and recognize you within and around us. Amen.**

*Silent personal confession*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

No matter how far from God our resistance takes us, God wishes to draw us back, as deliberately as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Receive God's embrace and this good news: you are forgiven.

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION

PASSING THE PEACE

\*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,*

*and to the Holy Ghost*

*as it was in the beginning, it is now,*

*and ever shall be; world without end. Amen, amen.*

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 13:31-35*

SERMON *Practicing Spiritual Formation: The Way of Prayer*  
Aram Mitchell

\*HYMN OF REFLECTION *Nearer, My God, to You* #606

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

*Lord's Prayer*

**Our Creator/Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom/Kingdom come, thy 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**

