

## Opening Worship

### Invitation into Worship

*L: In worship we are reminded who we are and whose we are.  
We are told we are God's beloved,*

**P: formed in the Holy One's image and gifted with the breath of life.**

*L: We are claimed for a life of sacrifice, praise and joy.  
We are challenged to carve a path of justice, dignity, and hope in the world.*

**P: With the fullness of our hearts, our strength, and our minds,  
May we come before God—Parent, Son, and Spirit—in worship now!**

*Please rise as you are able in body and/or in spirit.*

Hymn                "What Gift Can We Bring" – No. 370, *The New Century Hymnal*

*Please be seated.*

### Opening Prayer (*unison*)

**P: We gather in worship, Holy One, remembering and rejoicing in your past faithfulness to us. You have given us the spark of faith, sent people to nurture it, and gifted us with resources that encourage our faith to grow. We give thanks for your present grace, Holy God, for it is only by your blessing and your favor that we are here. As we worship and meet and discern today, we do so remembering your faithfulness and your grace that inspires our future hope. We trust, most powerful God, that you are already hold our past, our present, and our future. And so today, we turn the fullness of ourselves to you, in deeper trust and more courageous living. Amen.**

Contemplative Scripture Reading                1 Corinthians 3:5-13 (NRSV)

*L: Who are those who have planted and watered your faith? Think about those who helped you early on the path of faith. Maybe they were Sunday School teachers or family members, pastors or friends or people in your congregation. Recall their names and imagine their faces. Reflect on their role in your faith journey and give thanks to God for them as we listen to the words of 1 Corinthians 3:5-13:*

*L: What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.*

*L: Who has tended to you as you've grown in relationship with God? Who encourages you in your practice of faith? Who tells you the difficult truths in love? Who helps you see the person God is shaping*

*you to be and who gives you the courage to grow into being that person? In the quiet of your heart, name those people before God and pray for the Holy One's strength and wisdom to bless them.*

L: According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup> the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done.

*L: We are the builders adding the next faithful layer to the foundation that is Jesus Christ. What resources are we adding to the building, meaning what of our gifts and journeys are we putting into our layer? In what ways can we craft our layer so that it joins gracefully with the layers beneath it and those that will come to rest on it?*

*Please rise as you are able in body and/or in spirit.*

UCC Statement of Faith in the Form of a Doxology (*unison*)

**P: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

**Amen.**

Blessing

*Please be seated.*

The liturgy for this service is written by the Rev. Rebecca Hoover in conjunction with the PSEC Worship Team.

Opening hymn covered by OneLicense #708988