Closing Worship

Call to Worship

**Voice 1:** Come, let us worship God.

**Voice 2:** Through the love of Christ, we come before God in confidence and hope.

**Voice 1:** Let us praise God.

**Voice 3:** There is no other Holy One like God, there is no one besides our God.

**Voice 4:** There is no other Rock like our God, who set the world on its pillars.

**Voice 2:** Our God will guard the feet of God’s faithful ones and will raise up the poor to places of honor.

**Voice 3:** Through the love of Christ, we come before God in confidence and hope.

**Voice 1:** Let us praise Jesus the Christ.

**Voice 4:** Jesus has redeemed us as God’s children through his own flesh and blood.

**Voice 2:** Jesus has called us to lives of love and good deeds to our neighbor.

**Voice 3:** Jesus promises to be with us as we encourage one another and build up the Body of Christ.

**Voice 4:** Through the love of Christ, we come before God in confidence and hope.

**Voice 1:** Our God, who has promised us, is faithful. Therefore, let us worship, holding fast to our hope without wavering.

**Gospel:** Mark 13:1-8

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

13 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” 2 Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” 5 Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.
Litany

Voice 1: People of God, celebrate the gifts that enrich our lives and give us hope!
Voice 2: Breath and food,
Voice 3: caring people and gentle words,
Voice 4: music and colors.
All: We praise God for knowing what we need and for giving even before we ask.
Voice 1: Many of God’s gifts surprise us:
Voice 2: The hug of a child,
Voice 3: words of encouragement,
Voice 4: bright colored blooms from gray buds.
All: We praise God for knowing what we need and for giving even before we ask.
Voice 1: Many of God’s gifts fulfill us:
Voice 2: New vocational opportunities,
Voice 3: courage to stand up for justice,
Voice 4: words that say, “I love you.”
All: We praise God for knowing what we need and for giving even before we ask.
Voice 1: Many of God’s gifts change us so that we can bring hope in despair:
Voice 2: When the world turns on its head,
Voice 3: when there is bias and bigotry,
Voice 4: when violence and war cause people to live in fear,
Voice 2: when our own streets aren’t safe,
Voice 3: our cities are food deserts,
Voice 4: when mountains are soiled and eroded,
All: We lose sleep because we don’t know what to do.
Voice 1: Yet God calls us and uniquely equips us to be agents of change.
Voice 2: We thank God for reaching out to us,
Voice 3: touching and caring,
Voice 4: loving and giving, even as we hear of wars, disasters, and violence.
All: Help us, O God, to reach out to others, to touch the lonely, to care for those who are troubled, to live with all in joy, hope and peace. Amen.

**Closing Words – Benediction:** The Rev. William Worley