

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Richard Rice: Wherever you go, from the top of the highest mountain or into the deep abysses of the earth, God knows you.

Many Voices: Wherever we go, God knows our name.

Richard Rice: Whatever you do, from the time you wake up until you lay your head down again, God knows you.

Many Voices: Whatever we do, God knows our name.

Richard Rice: However you live, from your inner thoughts to your public acts and everything in between, God knows you.

Many Voices: However we live, God knows our name.

Richard Rice: We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us, and calls us by name.

Many Voices: We gather to worship God, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God who knows our name.

*Opening Hymn

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

UMH #560

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Richard Rice: All-knowing God, we gather together with praise and thanksgiving for who you are, and for all that you have done for us. You know us better than we know ourselves—all our thoughts and actions—and yet you love us. No matter where we go or what we do, your love encircles us—ahead and behind—gently leading and guiding and blessing. We praise you for your love and your faithful presence in our lives. May your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together—examine our attitudes and actions, lay bare the things we need to confess, challenge us with your Word, and guide us on to paths that lead to life. For we are your people, called by your name. In Jesus' name we pray,

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

(Come forward with your backpack).

Blessing of the Backpacks

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Tender and knowing God, you have searched us and known us—every thought, every fear, every hope that stirs within. You wove us together with care, claiming us before we could speak your name. Receive these gifts, offered not from perfection but from hearts seeking you. Use them to shape a world more reflective of your love and shape us, too, into a people more open, more generous, more faithful. May our giving become a response to your knowing and our generosity a reflection of your grace. In the name of the one who knows us still. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 139:1-6 (*NRSVue*)

Gospel Lesson

Luke 14: 25-33 (*NRSVue*)

Richard Rice: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Christ Has Broken Down the Wall"

W&S #3122

Proclaiming

"Smartphone Generation"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

TFWS #2129

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World