

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship:

How very good and pleasant it is...

**when we live together in unity, when we gather to break bread as neighbors, when we choose to listen to one another, when we practice love - publicly and without fear.**

How very hard and frustrating it is...

**when all those aspirations seem like a dream, when we've endured so many years of deepening divisions, when we've seen families, friends, and churches torn apart, when we've been pitted against our neighbor.**

How scary and fearful it is...

**when we don't know what to expect, when we're not sure if breaches can be repaired, when we struggle between advocacy and self-care, when we wonder if it's all gone too far to be restored.**

How unbelievable and gracious it is...

**that despite all this, God promises a blessing for us, and dares to bestow upon us life forevermore!**

How very good and pleasant it is...

**that the oil running down Aaron's robes, spilling over his collar, would spill into our lives, healing wounds that run so deep.**

Come, neighbors, for now is the time to worship.

\*Opening Hymn #610 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Call to Reconciliation

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

**Gracious and merciful God, you teach us that the greatest commandment is to love you with all our heart, all our soul, and with all our mind. Forgive us when we've given you partial hearts, choosing to care only for that which affects us personally. Forgive us when we've given you partial souls, giving our highest allegiance to any politician, making idols out of any nation, flag, or party, and sacrificing the wellbeing of our neighbor for money, power, or privilege. Forgive us when we've given you partial minds, allowing the rhetoric of election season to harden our hearts, casting aside truth when it doesn't serve our desires, and refusing to look at things from another person's perspective. Hear our confession, O God, and receive it with your abundant compassion.**

Assurance of Pardon

\*Passing the Peace

\*Gloria Hymn #582                      Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Time with God's Children

Acknowledgement of the Saints    Oline Kirkbride  
Donald Schwarz  
Casey Smith

Anthem                                      For All the Saints

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading                              Hebrews 9:11-14

Second Reading                          Mark 12:28-34

Sermon                                      The Most Important

\*Hymn #32                                 For All the Saints

\*Statement of Faith:

**We, the people of God, who are the recipients of grace and mercy through no merit of our own, choose to respond to that grace and mercy by reminding ourselves of our neighbors. Therefore:**

- **We believe the person who votes the other way is our neighbor.**
- **We believe the politician who stands for everything we're against is our neighbor.**
- **We believe the family member who we're not looking forward to talking with over the Thanksgiving table in a few weeks is our neighbor.**
- **We believe the person who lives next door whose yard signs make us sick to our stomach is our neighbor.**
- **We believe the people the attack ads say we should fear are our neighbors.**
- **We believe the church member whose online posts make us roll our eyes is our neighbor.**

**We believe that neighborliness might be the hardest thing we're called to do, but we do it nonetheless - at times messily, imperfectly, and awkwardly - because God calls it good and pleasant. Amen.**

Stewardship Message:

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Generous and loving God, we do thank you for the many blessings in our lives. As you have so freely given your love in Jesus Christ, may we freely share your love with others through these gifts we offer today. May they be signs of our devotion to you and our willingness to love in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayers of the People concluding with The Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn #757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Charge and Benediction

Postlude