

PRELUDE "In the Garden" by C. Austin Miles

Thelma Downey

MEDITATIVE THOUGHT

Marilyn Casey

"Come to me . . . and I will give you rest," Jesus promises. Where do we go, and to whom do we turn, to discover the truth of these words?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marilyn Casey

L: "Come to Me," Jesus invites.

P: We come to You.

L: "Come to Me, if you are tired."

P: We come to You.

L: "Come to Me, if you carry burdens."

P: We come to You.

L: "Come, and discover rest for your souls."

P: Amen.

OPENING HYMN "America the Beautiful" vs. 1 & 2

Hymnal Page #696

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountains majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

OPENING PRAYER

Marilyn Casey

Creator God, You have created us to walk with You. Help us walk with You in this time of worship, that we may be strengthened to walk with You all the days of our lives. As we come to You this day, bless us with Your grace and Your rest, that we may find renewal and the strength to serve with confidence and joy. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Marilyn Casey

Psalm 33:12-22 NRSV

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

¹³The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind. ¹⁴From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—¹⁵he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

¹⁶A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. ¹⁷The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save. ¹⁸Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ¹⁹to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. ²⁰Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield. ²¹Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ²²Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE AMERICA IS GOOD!"

Pastor Tom

PRAYERS OF THE PASTOR AND PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

GIVING BACK TO GOD (TITHES AND GIFTS)

DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymnal #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Marilyn Casey

Receive these gifts we now bring, God of gifts, and bless them to be gifts for Your world. Through our giving, renew others, that they, too, may know the comfort and rest of living in the arms of Your compassion and Your love. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "America" vs. 1 & 4

Hymnal Page #697

1. My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring!

4. Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing; long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Tom

POSTLUDE "Pass It On" by Kurt Kaiser

Thelma Downey