

## **Welcoming & Announcements**

### **Birthdays/ Special Occasions**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

#### **Call to Worship:**

One: On this September morning  
We gather together with joy  
and a song in our hearts.

All: For it is indeed a gift to worship together this day.

One: United in worship, open to God's grace  
Let us sing, pray and rejoice  
In the spirit of Christ.

All: Come, let us worship.  
Welcome to the Church

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Deep in our hearts, O God, we know we are known by You. Every crevice of our past, every heartbeat of our present, is known and loved by You. Inscribe in us the desire to know You more fully, and in knowing You, may we live faithfully as Your people. This we ask in the name of Your Son who taught us to pray ...

\* Opening Hymn: "Come In, Come In and Sit Down" VU 395

**Psalm 139** VU 861-862

**Hymn:** "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" VU 575

All God's Children

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" VU 575

## **Prayer of Confession:**

You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose.  
I gave them for a moment,  
then withdrew them for the work was hard.  
You asked for my mouth,  
to speak out against injustice.  
I gave you a whisper, that I might not be accused.  
You asked for my eyes,  
to see the pain of poverty.  
I closed them, for I did not want to see.  
You asked for my life, that you might work through me.  
I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved.  
O God, forgive me for my calculated efforts to serve you  
only when it is convenient for me to do so,  
only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.  
O God, forgive me, renew me,  
send me out as a useable instrument,  
that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

## **Assurance of Amazing Love**

### **The Presentation of Our Gifts**

Invitation to Generosity

**Music for the Offering:** "Your Work O God Needs Many Hands" VU 537

**Offertory Prayer:** Caring God,  
may we offer not only our material gifts,  
but our whole selves to you  
and to all those who need our support in the quest for justice.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Liberator. Amen.

### **Listening for The Word**

**Sacred Scripture:** Jeremiah 18:1-11

Luke 14: 25-33

**Anthem:** "Here We Stand Lord" (Price/Besig)

**Meditation**

**Reflective Music**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving**

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn:** "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet"

VU 245

**Blessing Going Forth**

**Choral Benediction:** "Dance with the Spirit"

MV 156