Prelude Ann Boudreaux

Call to Worship

**One:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

**One:** Come, let us give thanks to God!  
**Many: We gather together to praise the One who strengthens the weak,**  
**and hears the prayers of the forgotten.**  
**One:** Come, let us give thanks to Christ!  
**Many: We gather together to sing of the One who calls us to serve those**  
**who are hungry and alone at this time of year.**  
**One:** Come, let us give thanks to the Spirit!  
**All: We gather together to exalt the One who provokes us to love**  
**not only our family and friends, but the guest among us. Amen**

Hymn *“Unsettled World”* David Sparks

Unsettled world, where people long to find their way, to feel secure,

from lives of turbulence and rush we come, to seek your peace, our God,

your word to hear, our faith to live.

Unsettled world, where money rules and greedy systems call the tune;

For strength to keep our values straight we come, with trust in you, O God,

your word to hear, our faith to live.

Unsettled world, where angry poor from grinding need at affluence stare,

with tears and thirst for truth and right we come, with long in our hearts,

your word to hear, our faith to live.

Unsettled world, unsettled church, whose structures creak and doctrines swirl,

by faith, and in the strength of Christ, we strive, in true community,

your word to hear, our faith to live.

Unison Prayer of Invocation (from Bruce Pewer)

**What will it take, loving God, for this hour to be a time of wonder and re-creation? We have little to offer you except our spiritual yearnings, limited faith, and partial love. In your mercy, please take what we have and are, and by the joy of your Spirit transform this hour of worship into deeper reverence and loftier praise. Amen**

Children’s Message

Lesson from the Hebrew Bible 1st Samuel 1:4-20; 1st Samuel 2:1-10

Sermon *“Come Again No More?”*Pastor Lisa

Hymn *“My Heart is Overflowing”*

My heart is overflowing with gladness and with praise.

The God who guards my going gives meaning to my days.

Holy Rock of Ages known in word and deed,

Giving the victory, fulfilling my every need.

All who are poor and lowly will have a heavenly home.

The humble and the holy shall surely know shalom.

God lifts the needy from the ashes of despair,

Favors the outcast and the downtrodden everywhere.

The One who once created and now sustains the earth,

Boldly anticipated we too would bring to birth.

Love conquers evil, setting all the captives free.

Praise God for life begetting life for eternity.

Prayers of the People *(sharing of joys and concerns)*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(debts and debtors)*

Invitation to Give

Offertory Anthem*“Hard Times”* Stephen Foster

Leslie Anderson and Lisa Durkee

Let us pause in life's pleasures and count its many tears  
While we all sup sorrow with the poor  
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears  
Oh, hard times, come again no more

'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary  
Hard times, hard times, come again no more  
Many days you have lingered around my cabin door  
Oh, hard times, come again no more

While we seek mirth and beauty and music, light and gay  
There are frail forms fainting at the door  
Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks will say  
Oh, hard times, come again no more

Prayer of Dedication

**God of glory and strength, we share this offering with you as a response to your powerful acts in our own lives. We share our financial resources with you because of the many ways that you have blessed us. Your lifegiving spirit fills our lives and we want to respond in our deeds, our words and our acts. So, please bless our gifts so that they may be of service to others. Amen**

Hymn  *“O Day of God Draw Near”*

O day of God, draw near as at creation's birth;  
let there be light again, and let your reign begin on earth.  
  
Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,  
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.  
  
Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,  
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Benediction

Postlude Ann Boudreaux