

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving and gracious God, as we draw together this hour, help us to draw closer to you through our prayers, through our singing, and in our silence. May our thoughts be worthy of the love you offer us unconditionally and eternally, and may our lives be a reflection of our thanks. We offer this prayer and the worship of this time in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible ***Numbers 21:4-9***

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

A Reading from The Gospels ***John 3:14-21***

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Sermon *"Just Enough of a Bad Thing"* - Pastor Lisa

*Hymn *"Nothing Can Trouble"* - vocalists Hunt Gressitt, Sarah Schneider

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.

God alone fills us.

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

Pastoral Prayer

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

Invitation to Give

Offertory

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, through Christ Jesus you have blessed our lives. You continue to draw us closer to you and one another. In response to your gracious care, we offer these gifts and the service of our lives to you. May your name be glorified on account of all that we say and do. Amen.

*Hymn *“What Wondrous Love is This”* - vocalist Sarah Schneider

What wondrous love is this, o my soul! o my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this! that Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heavy cross, for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Believe this: there is something within you right now—
so small that you might not know it is there; but it has the power to grow into something

the world needs.

All: We trust that God is never done with us. With God, there is always a new beginning, a new possibility to make something different of ourselves, and to make a difference in the lives of others.

Pastor: Let God surprise you with strength you did not know you had, with creative possibilities you never dreamed of.

All: We will open ourselves to God's quiet prompting. We will trust that God nurtures within us the gifts, talents, and character we need to be God's agents of transformation and loving service.

Pastor: Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.