

(* Please rise in body or in spirit

Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

— *Gathering* —

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount

Jack Brooks

WELCOME

Liturgist: Carol Scoggins

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

**Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.**

***HYMN #408**

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*God, you call us to beloved community with you and with each other.
But we exclude and reject those we deem different.
You claim us as beloved, but we turn against each other in anger and hate.
You liberate us and lead us in Christ's path of peace,
but we build walls and invest in guns and dismiss peace as impractical and unrealistic.
Redeeming God, forgive our worldly ways.
Call us and claim us once again for the work of building your beloved community. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our God is loving, just and merciful. God delivers us from sin and restores us by grace.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

—*Word*—

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

Bible p. 631-632, LG p. 822

SECOND READING

ACTS 8:14-17

Bible p. 118, LG p. 153-154

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Bible p. 56, LG p. 73

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Baptism and the Holy Spirit

Jimmy Chapman

—*Response*—

***HYMN #69**

Here I Am, Lord

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.