

**Tabernacle United Methodist Church**  
**February 7, 2021**

**PRELUDE MUSIC** – “Peace on Earth” by Jay Ungar and Molly Mason. Played by Lee and Julian Shepherd, piano and cello.

**WELCOME!** Today we welcome the Rev. Rebecca Laird who will lead us in our time of worship.

**Call to Worship:**

*Adapted Litany of Resistance, CPT*

**ALL:**     *This we commit to you, O Lord, who has called us to community, to stand up for and with our people, to make amends for our mistakes. May we build a refuge place together in your name.*

Leader:   With the help of God’s grace,

**ALL:**     *We will struggle for justice.*

Leader:   With the compassion of Christ,

**ALL:**     *We will stand for what is true.*

Leader:   With God’s abiding kindness,

**ALL:**     *We will love even our enemies.*

Leader:   With the love of Christ,

**ALL:**     *We will resist all evil.*

Leader:   With God’s unending faithfulness,

**ALL:**     *We will work to build the beloved community.*

Leader:   With Christ’s passionate love,

**ALL:**     *We will carry the cross.*

Leader:   With God’s overwhelming goodness

**ALL:**     *We will walk as pilgrims of peace.*

Leader:   With Christ’s fervent conviction,

**ALL:**     *We will labor for truth.*

Leader:   With God’s infinite mercy,

**ALL:**     *We will live in solidarity with all people.*

Leader:   In the end there are three things that last:

**ALL:**     *Faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.*

Leader:   Let us abide in God’s love.

**ALL:**     *Thanks be to God.*

**OPENING HYMN** – “Gather Us In” #2236 in The Faith We Sing, verses 1, 2 and 4

1. Here in this place new light is streaming  
Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken

Gather us in, the blind and the lame  
Call to us now and we shall awaken  
We shall arise at the sound of our name

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery  
We are the old who yearn for your face  
We have been sung throughout all of history  
Called to be light to the whole human race  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly  
Give us the courage to enter the song

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining  
Not in some heaven light years away  
But here in this place the new light is shining  
Now is the kingdom, now is the day  
Gather us in and hold us forever  
Gather us in and make us your own  
Gather us in, all peoples together  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

### **Confession/words of assurance**

**Leader:** In our church, we gather in community. In our nation, we are divided into groups: right and wrong, Republican and Democrat, entitled citizens and undocumented people. To be church in this nation divided is to take the risk of opening our doors as a place of refuge for those targeted for violence and humiliation, those considered deserving of less, and those made invisible in our nation. We must follow the example of Esther in her boldness as she made demands of the king to grant life, rights and privileges to her people. We must follow the example of Jesus of Nazareth as he stood with the most marginalized.

**ALL:** *In confession, God, we are learning we cannot be silent nor close ourselves off to those in need. You have, indeed, shown us what you call us to do. May we be willing to open our churches to be a courageous community.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC – “A Better Resurrection,” words by Christina Rossetti, music and video by Theresa Lee-Whiting with Trina Renay, soprano and Pej Reitz, piano**

**Sermon:** “For Such a Time as This”

Rev. Rebecca L. Laird

**Prayer**

*Adapted from Diann Neu’s “Prayer for Healing”*

God of all,  
Help us keep our eyes on the goal.  
Give us courage to address the issues that have been left to fester,

And humility to model love and compassion.  
In a polarized community in desperate need of healing,  
Bring people of all beliefs together,  
That we may work for peace and justice for all.

***Response: In your mercy, grant us healing.***

Holy Spirit,  
Guide us to trust in you.  
Soften our hearts to hear the cries of those in pain.  
Strengthen us to be the church needed in such a time as this.  
Embolden us to be a refuge for those seeking peace.  
Help us find our path,  
That we may travel well together, though the journey will be long.

***Response: In your mercy, grant us healing.***

Son of God,  
Call out to us to follow you.  
Wake us to resist the way of division and hate.  
Lead us instead in your way of truth and life.  
You who healed the sick, fed the hungry, clothed the naked.  
Help us to see those around us in need.  
Let us sing out your justice and love across the land.

***Response: In your mercy, grant us healing. Amen***

### **CLOSING HYMN - "You Shall Go Out With Joy" #2279 in The Faith We Sing**

You shall go out with joy  
And be let forth with peace,  
And the mountains and the hills  
Will break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy  
And the trees of the fields  
Will clap, will clap their hands.  
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,  
While you go out with joy.

### **BENEDICTION**