

Order of the Worship Service
August 31, 2025, 10:00am
John Welton, preaching

Choral Prelude

THERE IS A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY
Sanctuary Choir, Atlee Beam, director

Welcome and Church Life

*Call to Worship

One: Already overburdened with the demands
of work and leisure, family and friends,
we come to this place in search of rest.

All: May we find here the strength to work for God's justice.

One: Forgiveness is elusive, and anger is justified,
too often we settle for the sweet fleeting fruit of revenge.

All: May we find here the patience to embody mercy.

One: Deluded by the world in which we live
receiving power, prestige and money as just reward
missing the Spirit's call to a life grounded in humble service.

All: May we find here the wisdom to walk in the Spirit.

*Opening Hymn 391 (VERSES 1-4, 6)

TAKE MY LIFE

Prayer of Confession

**God of fruitful labor,
work sometimes brings out the worst in us.
At home, at school, in the workplace,
even in our relationship with you,
we too easily question what others do and get,
instead of taking care of our own business.
Take away our bitterness.
Teach us the art of the careful complaint.
Give us grateful hearts, we pray. Amen.**

Moments of Silence

Assurance of Pardon

One: This is the good news:
there is no ranking in God's kingdom.
God graces everyone with the same gifts:
mercy, restoration, and new life
**All: God has kept the covenant.
We have been forgiven,
we have been made new people.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen**

*Passing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Invitation to Children's church

Giving of our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Hymn of Preparation 256

LET THE WHOLE CREATION CRY

Scripture Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

John Welton, preaching

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn 386

O FOR A WORLD

Blessing