

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This day the Lord is showering us with mercy, bringing us hope.

We long to feel the showers of hope and mercy on us.

Lord, open our hearts as we reach out to others in compassion.

AMEN.

OPENING CHORUS

Blessed Assurance

#369 (1-3)

Jeff Ingebritsen

UNISON PRAYER

Robyn Essler

Your love has brought us together, O Lord, and it is your love that sustains us through each day. We pray that you would keep us faithful. Even as we watch for signs of your kingdom, strengthen us to work with you to bring about, here and now, your reign on earth. Give us the courage to witness to your presence in the world, today, tomorrow, and into the future. We pray in the name of the One who comes, Christ our Savior. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's promises are never forgotten. Do not grieve as those who have no hope. Our hope is in God, and not even death can overcome that hope. Enter into God's mercy and love! **AMEN.**

The Church Hears God's Word

Scripture – Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-15, 19-25

24 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.² Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. ³ But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac,

¹⁴ "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁹ Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you." ²¹ But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD." ²² Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD." "Yes, we are witnesses," they replied. ²³ "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." ²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him." ²⁵ On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

L: This is the word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Dr. Kim