

**August 8, 2021** 

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Call to Worship "Prayers by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org."

We are from north and south.

We are from tiny apartments and expansive homes.

We are from this city and from others far away.

We are from big families and dinners made for one.

We are from stages of grief and stages of love.

We are from hot summers and cold winters.

We are from kitchens with passed down recipes, and front porches with old, familiar swings.

We are from the dust of the earth and the stars of the sky.

We are from a lot of places, but today we are here.

Today we are together.

Holy God, gather us in.

Hymn

You Are Mine

recorded by Ruth-Noemi Belonni-Rosario

#### **Call to Confession**

#### Confession

When people heard that Jesus was from Nazareth, they asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

We confess, God of beginnings, that we have asked the same question.

Can anything good come from that side of town?

From a school with poor test scores?

From a criminal history?

From the opposite political party?

From a history of addiction?

From a faith with doubt?

From a church with faults?

Holy God, forgive us for doubting that you are in all things at all times.

Open our eyes to see your goodness, not as something that resides here or there, but as the expansive grace that it is.

Can anything good come from there?

Yes. Always yes. Amen.

# Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, if you ever ask yourself,

"Can anything good come from this messy and human life of mine?"

Remember this: God is always whispering, "Yes."

You were created in the image of God.

Your origin story is one of goodness and love from the very beginning.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God is here. God is at work among us.

We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

## **Passing of the Peace and Connection Time**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you!

#### Affirmation of faith

We believe that goodness can come from the dirt, that faith can come from doubt, that minds can be changed, that justice can begin with us, and that something good can come from Nazareth.

We believe all these things, because we believe that God is more

expansive than we have words for—showing up in the corners of our world so often ignored and denied.

We believe that from this place of holy surprise, God invites us forward—beckoning hope, bravery, and curiosity from each of us.

"Come and see," God says. We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

#### Pastoral Prayer w/Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### Hymn

#### Scripture

Genesis 2:4b-15 John 1:35-51

Sermon

I've been meaning to ask, "Where are you from?"

Pastor Erin

Offering and Blessing