

**Date: July 9, 2023**  
**Season of the Holy Spirit**

**Prayer of Preparation**

Pearl Leona Sturgis

Lord Take This Burden

*I'm the clay that God's molding to bake in the fire. I'm the grass that soon withers away. I'm the weak and the fearful...the weary and tired with a spirit that's too numb to pray. There's a mountain so high I can't climb it alone. There's a cloud...so black I can't see. There is a river so wide...I can't cross on my own. Let me lay down my burden on Thee. Lord, take this burden and lift it so high. Let it fly on the wings of a dove. Let the rainbow of joy shine across Heaven's sky. Let me rest in the arms of Your love.*

**Gathering in the Presence of God**

*\*Please stand as able, in body or in spirit*

**Gathering Music**

*Amazing Grace*

arr. David Libby

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship** (responsively)

Liturgist

We gather this day to worship!

But we bring with us heavy burdens which weigh us down.

We gather this day to praise God!

But our hearts ache inside us and we feel we can go no further.

Come all who are burdened and who feel weighed down. Come to Jesus.

Lord Jesus, take our burdens and heal our spirits. Amen.

\*Hymn

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

GTG 418

**Confessing Our Separation from God** (unison)

Liturgist

Merciful and loving God, we are so grateful for your redeeming love for each one of us. We confess that there have been times of doubt in our spirits. We confess that when the times of difficulties are upon us, we don't always believe that you will take our burdens. We feel we have to always be in control, trying to demand the desired outcome. Help us to place our trust in you. Remind us that you surround us continually with your care, you never just let us go to drift aimlessly about. Open our hearts and spirits again to your healing powers. For we pray these things in the name of Jesus, the one who will take our burdens and give us peace. Amen.

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**     *Jesus, Draw Me Close*     Rick Founds  
Jesus, draw me close; Closer, Lord, to You.  
Let the world around me fade away.  
Jesus, draw me close;  
Closer, Lord, to You.  
For I desire to worship and obey.

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

### **We Hear God's Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**     Liturgist

**Anthem**     *You've Got a Friend*     Carole King  
Soloist - Tina Marie Casamento

**Gospel Lesson**     Matthew 11:28-30     Liturgist  
*Source: The Message*

**Reflection**     Lighten Your Load

### **We Respond to God's Word**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**     *I Believe in Jesus*     Marc Nelson

### **Joys and Hopes of the People of God**

**Offertory:**     *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*     arr. David Libby  
**The Act of Gratitude**     GTG 465

**\*Doxology: An Expression of Faith to God**     GTG 606  
*Tune: Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving** (unison)

Liturgist

God of Promise, many of us have trouble discerning the Living Christ in our lives. Use these gifts to quiet the traffic and turmoil of life's stresses. Enable us through our faithful giving to discover a deeper reverence for Jesus' gentle and humble message. Lift our heavy burdens, so we can prayerfully respond to the peace and the calm repose that you provide for us today and forever. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen. (source: *Matthew 11;16-19, 25-30*)

**We Follow God's Word into the World**

**\*Hymn**

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

GTG 835

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

arr. David Libby  
GTG 837

Next Week's Liturgist: Marylea Franz