



W. Our souls are sick, our hearts are sore, but now we're coming home;  
Our strength renew, our hope restore, for Lord, we're coming home.  
Coming home, Lord, coming home. We're coming home to you. Amen.

## Welcome and Announcements

### A Time for Promising

Flo and Andi Radler  
bring their son  
John-Robert Heinrich  
to be baptized.

Baptism Hymn

"Borning Cry"

#680 WR

### Confessing

#### Invitation to Reflection

L. Hear these word from Michael Mayne's "Learning to Dance," as we prepare our hearts for silent reflection and confession.

*"The opposite of love is not hate, but indifference, the failure to care - or to care enough. It is a want of imagination, a lack of empathy, an inability or refusal to see in another human being a creature as frail and as easily hurt as I can be."  
(Michael Mayne in Learning to Dance)*

Let us now pause for silent reflection and then our prayer of confession.

*(moment for silent confession)*

#### Prayer of Confession

(adapted from Catherine of Sienna: *The Dialogue*)

L. Let us pray: O God, you've asked us to love you in the same way that you love us;  
W. But we cannot do this, because you have loved us without our consent, or permission or even desire. You have loved us first of all.  
L. Whatever love we have for you, O Lord, we owe you. We cannot love you as you love us.  
W. But those around us, our families, neighbors, friends, these we could love as you have loved us.  
L. We could, if we would. Forgive our failure to care, our lack of love, our indifference to our neighbors and forgive our withered imagination about the way of love.

- W. May we begin to love as you love us. May we love without looking for any profit for ourselves. May we learn to love with no strings attached, no demand for gratitude, no thought of payback.
- L. For since you have loved us so much, O God, may we love one another in such a way that you might consider it our love for you. Amen.

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

(1 John 4:7-12)

L. Sisters and brothers, hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. So, “beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.” We are indeed forgiven and, “if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.” Amen.

### **Gospel Medley**

God Will Take Care of You”	#86 FH
(Chorus, v. 1, Chorus)	
Love Lifted Me”	#61 FH
(Chorus, v. 1, Chorus)	
What a Friend We Have in Jesus”	#473 WR
(vs. 1 and 2)	

### **Hearing**

#### **Scripture Read**

John 15:1-8 (or 12)

- O. This is the Word of the Lord.  
A. Thanks be to God.

### **Choral Worship**

“What Shall I Do to Be Saved?”

*(Arr. C. Peace, from a performance by Dock Reed and Vera Hall Ward in 1950. A great debt of gratitude is owed to these great African American gospel singers and the legacy of their recorded works.)*

### **The Word Spoken**

Low Hanging Fruit

### **Responding**

### **Gospel Medley**

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord!”	#486 WR
(vs. 1 and 4)	
Sweet Hour of Prayer”	#478 WR
(v. 1)	
Take Time to be Holy”	#483 WR

(v. 1)  
Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” #489 WR  
(twice)

**Prayerful Remembering of Those Long Forgotten with....**

**Musical Tribute:** “Dark Was the Night” (Blind Willie Johnson)  
(Chris Peace and Ron Nice)

**Prayer**

**Going Forth**

**Blessing**

**Parting Hymn** “Calling My Children Home” arr. by Joseph H. Jennings  
(Providence Choir)

**Postlude**