



## Centering Time

### Call to Worship:

Loving God, thank you for always being with us even when we face life's storms.

**Help us to find peace and strength in you.**

We face many storms in life. When we are fearful, help us to feel your presence.

**Help us to find peace and strength in you.**

We seek your words of truth, love, and deliverance and ask for strength for our journey.

**Help us to find peace and strength in you.**

As your faithful followers, we give you thanks and praise as we seek your face and ask for your strength and guidance.

**Help us to find peace and strength in you.**

**Hymn:**        *God of Grace and God of Glory*                      *UMH # 577*                      *All*

### Opening Prayer:

Beloved, when sorrow and hardship abound, and events across an ocean and down the block shake our resolve and make us question what good the good news is even doing, God calls to us...

**Open your heart.**

When fear and misinformation infiltrate our relationships, and we don't know who to trust or how to do the next right thing, God calls to us...

**Open your heart.**

When joy overflows, and we witness the fruit of grace all around us, transforming our lives and communities into places of connection and flourishing, God calls to us...

**Open your heart.**

May this time of worship be for each of us, a time to listen to God's call to open our hearts and accept the divine invitation to say yes to the work of grace in us, among us, and all around us.

**God, we open our hearts to receive your gift of grace, knowing you hold us securely in the palm of your hands so that we might have the courage to live in a vulnerable community with you and one another. Amen.**

*(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2024.)*

## Sharing the Peace

**Children's Moment:** Open our hearts, and God can see in!

## THE WORD

### **Scripture Readings:**

**2 Corinthians 6: 1-13**

**Mark 4: 35-41**

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God**

**Message:** *God's Grace Through the Storm* Theresa Siemers, Certified Lay Minister

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**Hymn:** *Open My Eyes, That I May See UMH # 454 All*  
(We will sing it two times or until all have had a chance to come forward with their open hearts.)

### **Joys and Concerns and Prayers of the People:**

Most Holy God,

We are a people who need you in your fullness

— as Creative Father, Redeeming Son, and Sustaining Spirit.

Our lives have complications and pain,

our world has war and despair.

But we were made in your image, and

your Spirit was breathed into us

that we might experience hope in your goodness.

There are situations that make it hard to be aware of that goodness.

We pray now for those whose lives are affected

by the negativity in these circumstances:

For senseless attacks kill and injure innocent people around the world . . . *(brief silence)*

When storms and hurricanes are so strong they destroy even the homes designed to withstand them . . . *(brief silence)*

When political battles bring out pettiness over issues too important for bickering . . .  
. *(brief silence)*

When our hearts ache, hurt by broken relationships and unmet expectations . . .  
*(brief silence)*

When we are exhausted emotionally from illnesses in ourselves or those we love . .





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