

## 09-17-2023 Words of Worship

### Welcome –

Good morning – welcome to all on this beautiful Sunday morning. We especially welcome Pastor Rosie Jantz this morning as she brings us the message.

I want to acknowledge the shock and grief that so many of us are feeling this morning in the wake of Bruce Schmidt's untimely and unexpected passing on Friday afternoon. (details?) There is a prayer in our hymnal that I would like to suggest we pray together before we go any further in our worship service. It's found at **number 994**.

**Are there opportunities** you'd like to share this morning for celebration or service?

### Call to Worship --

Prayer – O God, we trust that you are here with us, that you know what each person here needs in this time of worship and that your Spirit is present and attentive to each heart. Amen.

### Morning Prayer –

God of love and compassion, we come to you this morning with hearts full. We are grateful for the recent rains that have brought renewed life and nourishment to the earth. We're grateful for time together with friends and family and events that bring us together – meals, games, music, work. When it's difficult things, like grief, that brings us together, we're especially aware of how connected we are to one another, how deeply we need and appreciate one another's companionship, strength and comfort. We recognize that you are the source of the love and the compassion that we give to each other. Oh, God we pray for the family and friends of Bruce Schmidt – especially for his wife, Eileen, for his siblings Jim, Karen and Barb and their families. We pray for friends who are like family. We ask for your Spirit of comfort to surround this community in this time of tragic loss – a time that brings to mind just how fragile and precious life is. We pray for strength and wisdom as difficult decisions will need to be made. We pray for glimmers of hope and gratitude to be able to be seen and felt in the coming days and weeks.

Gracious God, we pray for others who are making changes or transitions in their lives, it seems that things rarely stand still or stay the same for very long. Some changes are brought with joy and happiness – we thank you, God for the safe arrival of twin girls for Karis Janzen and her husband and little boy. Bless them as they adjust to being a family of five! Sometimes things in our lives change due to circumstances beyond our control – we have health issues that bring change. We pray for those who are healing from injuries or from surgery or other procedures. We pray for those who are anticipating treatments or procedures. We're grateful for the medical care that's available and we know that ultimately, you are the source of our most profound healing and wellness. Some changes come as we age and the circumstances of our

lives are different. For those who are adjusting to new surroundings and expectations, we pray for the guidance and presence of your Spirit.

We pray for our world, God. We remember that fear and hatred have caused some people to lash out with violence; Lord, have mercy. We know that all around the world people are suffering because the earth is suffering, which means that the people don't have enough of what they need to live fully and be fully who you created them to be. Give us minds, hearts and hands that are open and filled with your love and generous spirit.

Be with us as we continue to worship, to learn, to sing and speak your praise. Be with Rosie as she brings us the message you've given her. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Benediction –**

Go with the God who loves you deeply, guides you daily and surprises you with steadfast fulfillment of promises. Go in peace.