**Call To Worship**

L: We come before God as equal in God’s sight.  
**P: God knows us thoroughly and loves us completely.**  
L: None of us is perfect and without blemish.  
**P: Yet God has called us children and asked us to be compassionate and responsible in our caring and witness.**  
L: We are called to joyful obedience in God’s realm.  
**P: Thanks be to God who trusts us and pours abundant love on us. AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

Redeeming God, come and heal our lives this day. Open our hearts to receive your words of hope and joy that we may become faithful servants of yours in this world which you have loaned to us. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

**Please announce Hymn of Praise:** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee  #89

**Scripture Reading:**Luke 15:20b-32 (CEB)

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

The words of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**