# Gathering

## Call to Worship

We come together as community in this time of trouble,  
**ready to listen to the wisdom of the Spirit.**

We come together as community in this time of danger,  
**ready to follow the way of the Spirit.**

We come together as community in this time of worry,  
**ready to share our concerns with the Spirit.**

We come together as community in this time of isolation,  
**gathered together under the Spirit’s wing.**

Let us worship God.

## Prayer of Approach

**Living and ever-present God,  
Holy One, Holy Three, You move through our midst like the wind:**

**Help us to be aware of Your presence,  
so that we can be inspired to rise above the troubles of our lives and live into Your new Kingdom.**

**We ask in the name of the Holy Spirit, who flies above us all as a dove. Amen.**

## Offertory Prayer

You know where our offerings of money can be put to the best use:  
**housing the homeless,  
feeding the hungry,  
providing medication for the sick,  
providing education for children and adults.**

Bless the money that we joyfully give now,   
**and also the money that we have kept back.**

Bless the time that we spend now,  
**and the time that we will spend in the coming days.**

May it be used to the glory of Your Kingdom,  
**may it be used in ways we cannot imagine   
to bring justice, love, and humility to our world. Amen.**

# Listening

## Children’s Time

Reading: [1 Peter 2:2-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+pt+2%3A2-10&version=MSG) (*The Message*)

Peter compares Jesus to the living Stone and talks about his listeners as stones in a building. But what is Peter hinting at? Are we just stones in a building, or is there something more in this metaphor?

### Questions

1. How does Jesus act with the untrusting?
2. How do we serve “as holy priests” (1 Peter 2:5)?
3. What does it mean that we are a holy people?
4. How did God choose us for this work?

## Sermon

Reading: [Acts 7:55-60](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+7%3A55-60&version=NRSV) (NRSV)

Stephen finishes his first (and only) sermon but doesn’t get the same warm reaction as Peter did. Instead, he is stoned by his listeners. However, his final act is to beg Jesus not to hold that sin against them. How is he able to pray this? How does this help us today?

### Questions

1. How do you think Stephen felt as he was being dragged out of the city?
2. What kinds of calamity frighten you?
3. What did the Spirit enable Stephen to do? How?
4. How can the Spirit enable you to overcome your fears?

# Serving

## Prayers for Community

*Refrain:*

Come, Holy Spirit, come.  
**Help us to follow You in the midst of our troubles.**

## Closing Hymn

“Spirit Song”

## Benediction

Go out and listen for the Spirit!  
**We will listen for the wisdom of the Spirit in times of trouble!**

Go out and follow the Spirit!  
**We will follow the way of the Spirit in times of danger!**

Go out and pray to the Spirit!  
**We will pray to the Spirit in times of concern!**

When your work is done, gather in the Spirit!  
**We will gather in the Spirit, and rest under the Spirit’s wing.**