

OPENING SCRIPTURE Psalm 68:1-10 (NIV)

May God arise, may his enemies be scattered;
may his foes flee before him.

May you blow them away like smoke—
as wax melts before the fire,
may the wicked perish before God.

But may the righteous be glad
and rejoice before God;
may they be happy and joyful.

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

When you, God, went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain,
before God, the One of Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.

You gave abundant showers, O God;
you refreshed your weary inheritance.

Your people settled in it,
and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come together, joining hands and hearts.

Many: Let our hands be links of chain which hold our lives together.

One: Not a chain of bondage but a silver cord of strength.

Many: A ribbon of love and faith and community,

One: giving us slack to sail the wind,

Many: yet holding us in a mystical embrace.

One: That we be alone but never lonely,

Many: that we may be together but never lost in the crowd,

One: that we may be one without forfeiting uniqueness.

Many: Come together, joining hands and hearts,

One: and let the Spirit of God and our spirits flow with each other and through us all.

Many: As we gather here to share this time and space, as we walk together on this journey. AMEN.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Touch us we pray, O God, through the ministry of melody, through the sounds and senses of song, through the wordless wonder which fills our souls with joy and peace. And through the Spirit which teases our feet to dance and causes our hearts to overflow, that we might be absorbed in the mystery and magic of music. And in this moment of worship, our lives will be melded in oneness to each other and to You. AMEN.