

## Call to Worship

One: We gather to worship together.

**All: Different people, different lives, different histories,**

One: Yet all children of the same Parent,

**All: Created lovingly by the Source of all life!**

One: We gather to reconnect with one another.

**All: Different people, different lives, different histories,**

One: Yet all disciples of one Teacher,

**All: Jesus, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.**

One: We gather with different joys and sorrows,

    different hopes and fears. . .

**All: Different people, different lives, different histories,**

One: Yet one people with one God, one faith, one baptism.

**All: Let us open ourselves to the presence of God  
at work in us, among us, and through us.**

## Jeremiah 10:1-16

Hear the word that the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the Lord:

Do not learn the way of the nations,  
or be dismayed at the signs of the heavens;  
for the nations are dismayed at them.

For the customs of the peoples are false:  
a tree from the forest is cut down,  
    and worked with an ax by the hands of an artisan;  
people deck it with silver and gold;  
    they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move.

Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field,  
    and they cannot speak;  
they have to be carried,  
    for they cannot walk.

Do not be afraid of them,  
    for they cannot do evil,  
nor is it in them to do good.

There is none like you, O Lord;  
    you are great, and your name is great in might.

Who would not fear you, O King of the nations?

For that is your due;  
among all the wise ones of the nations  
    and in all their kingdoms  
    there is no one like you.

They are both stupid and foolish;  
    the instruction given by idols  
    is no better than wood!

Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish,  
    and gold from Uphaz.

They are the work of the artisan and of the  
    hands of the goldsmith;  
their clothing is blue and purple;  
    they are all the product of skilled workers.  
But the Lord is the true God;  
    he is the living God and the everlasting King.  
At his wrath the earth quakes,  
    and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

Thus shall you say to them: The gods who did not make the  
heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the  
heavens.

It is he who made the earth by his power,  
    who established the world by his wisdom,  
    and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters  
    in the heavens,

    and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth.

He makes lightnings for the rain,  
    and he brings out the wind from his storehouses.

Everyone is stupid and without knowledge;  
    goldsmiths are all put to shame by their idols;  
for their images are false,  
    and there is no breath in them.

They are worthless, a work of delusion;  
    at the time of their punishment they shall perish.

Not like these is the Lord, the portion of Jacob,  
    for he is the one who formed all things,  
and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance;  
    the Lord of hosts is his name.