



Love

Prelude

Welcome

Luke Miltz

Welcoming of New Staff Members

Opening Song

"Free to Be Me"

Francesca Battistelli

At twenty years of age
I'm still looking for a dream
A war's already waged for my destiny
But You've already won the battle
And You've got great plans for me
Though I can't always see

'Cause I got a couple dents in my fender
Got a couple rips in my jeans
Try to fit the pieces together
But perfection is my enemy
And on my own I'm so clumsy
But on Your shoulders I can see
I'm free to be me

When I was just a girl
I thought I had it figured out
See my life would turn out right
And I'd make it here somehow

But things don't always come that easy
And sometimes I would doubt, oh

'Cause I got a couple dents in my fender
Got a couple rips in my jeans
Try to fit the pieces together
But perfection is my enemy
And on my own I'm so clumsy
But on Your shoulders I can see
I'm free to be me and You're free to be You

Sometimes I believe that I can do anything
Yet other times I think
I've got nothing good to bring
But You look at my heart and You tell me
That I've got all You seek, oh
And it's easy to believe even though

I got a couple dents in my fender
Got a couple rips in my jeans
Try to fit the pieces together
But perfection is my enemy
And on my own I'm so clumsy
But on Your shoulders I can see

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I'm free to be me and You're free to be You

We, the people of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, believe that God's love is expansive and unconditional and that, through Christ, God calls us to love one another as God loves us. We welcome all people, regardless of gender, race, age, cultural or religious heritage, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic circumstances, family configuration, or difference of ability. We celebrate the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a child of God.

Opening Prayer

Seek

Scripture

Joel 3:1-15

3 [a] For then, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, and I will enter into judgment with them there, on account of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations. They have divided my land, 3 and cast lots for my people, and traded boys for prostitutes, and sold girls for wine, and drunk it down.

4 What are you to me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you paying me back for something? If you are paying me back, I will turn your deeds back upon your own heads swiftly and speedily. 5 For you have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried my rich treasures into your temples.[b] 6 You have sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks, removing them far from their own border. 7 But now I will rouse them to leave the places to which you have sold them, and I will turn your deeds back upon your own heads. 8 I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a nation far away; for the Lord has spoken.

9 Proclaim this among the nations:

Prepare war,
stir up the warriors.

Let all the soldiers draw near,

let them come up.
10 Beat your plowshares into swords,
and your pruning hooks into spears;
let the weakling say, "I am a warrior."

11 Come quickly,
all you nations all around,
gather yourselves there.
Bring down your warriors, O Lord.
12 Let the nations rouse themselves,
and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat;
for there I will sit to judge
all the neighboring nations.

13 Put in the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.
Go in, tread,
for the wine press is full.
The vats overflow,
for their wickedness is great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes,
in the valley of decision!
For the day of the Lord is near
in the valley of decision.
15 The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.

Message

Rev. Lora Andrews

Serve

Response to the Word

We are invited to respond to what God is doing in our lives through prayer, action, and generosity. You can light a candle as part of that response—as a prayer or as a

commitment of your faithfulness today. We also respond with our financial gifts. Your generosity helps us Love, Seek, and Serve faithfully during this time and always. As we listen to the music, our prayer is that your relationship with God strengthens.

“He Leadeth Me” *Bradbury, arr. Adams*
Marlin Cooper, saxophone; Charles Dickinson, piano

Doxology

“O Bless the Gifts”
Jackson Thomas, song leader

O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
and bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
the rest, O God, is in your hand.

CCLI#1891966

Love, Seek, Serve Moment

The Lord’s Prayer

Allison Marcus

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
Jackson Thomas, song leader

Red #369

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

2 Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Blessing and Sending Forth

Postlude

St. Paul's Mission Statement:

***LOVE God and all others unconditionally;
SEEK answers to our questions;
SERVE God by serving others.***



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Thank you for joining us for worship!
[Click here](#) or scan the QR to
share any prayer joys and concerns
and fill out the online attendance pad.

