Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
*Call to Worship   *A Litany for Independence Day*

As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, giver of all good things.
For the women, men, and children who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world.
For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation.
For patriots who dreamed of, and labored for, a free nation.
For the men and women who laid the foundations of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all.
For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town.
For the brave soldiers who have left hearth and home to serve our country, for all who paid for our freedom with their very lives.
For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers, for all who labor and provide for the common good. For those who protect our community in emergencies and for all who work to restore order.
For the exquisite beauty of this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows.
For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far.
Lord, we pray for these United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.
That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray.
That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness.
That those who are elected to govern and lead would look to you for wisdom and guidance, and carefully guard the public trust. That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your ways.

Gracious God, Father of all the nations, bless and defend us and our land, prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your courage, grace and compassion.
Hear our prayer, O Lord, our rock and our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 338 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Prayer of Confession
Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips fear to tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past we cannot change,
open to us a future in which can be changed,
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image,
through Jesus Christ, the Sovereign Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 698   Take, O Take Me As I Am

Declaration of Forgiveness
Hear the good news!
Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ,
and Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life is gone and a new life has begun.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Time With Our Young Disciples

Scripture Reading   Isaiah 58:1-12
Morning Message

*Hymn

*Affirmation of Faith   The Apostles' Creed *p. 35*
* Hymn 581   Gloria Patri

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory
*Hymn 606   Doxology
*Prayer of Dedication
Almighty and merciful God, from whom comes all that is good,
we praise you for your mercies, for your goodness that has created us,
your grace that sustains us,
the discipline that corrects us,
your patience that has borne with us,
and your love that has redeemed us.
Receive our gifts, offered in humility and gratitude, that the world may know,
love and serve you. We give in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 8   Eternal Father, Strong to Save

*Blessing
Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold onto what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak and help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Postlude