

Prelude: *If Thou But Trust in God To Guide Thee*, Johann S. Bach

Welcome

Opening of the Word and Invocation (Psalm 118:24)

Hymn #412

Responsive Reading: Psalm 116:1-5, 7-9

Leader: *I love you, Lord, for you have heard my cry for mercy.*

All: *You have listened to me; I will call on you all my days.*

Leader: *The bands of death encircled me; the anguish of the grave came over me.*

All: *I was overcome with trouble and sorrow.*

Leader: *Then I called your Name, YHWH—“Help, YHWH, save me!”*

All: *You are gracious, Lord, and just; our God is full of compassion. Be at rest once again, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.*

Leader: *You have rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.*

All: *I walk before you, YHWH, in the land of the living.*

Opening Prayer (please kneel, said in unison)

Holy and everliving God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed; guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live each day in love to one another and you.

(A New Zealand Prayer Book)

An Affirmation of Worship

We worship God, our loving Lord, who made us; who taught us in the Bible that all people are God's children, and that we should love God and each other. When people turned away from God, he loved us enough to be born in our world as a baby. He grew up and lived the life he wants us to live. Risen now, he is still with us, our Lord and our God, helping us to grow more like him. This is why we know him as our Savior. We are his disciples when we love him, and show our love for him by being kind and helpful to one another.

Readings

Isaiah 50:4-9

Mark 8:27-38

Philippians 2:5-11

True Christianity 126

Children's Message

Sermon: Taking Up Our Cross

Time of Reflection: *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*

Closing Prayer

Prayer of Gratitude

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn #417

Benediction (Jim Cotter)

Postlude: *If Thou But Trust in God To Guide Thee*, Johann S. Bach

— *The End of Worship and the Beginning of Service* —