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Amen.**  \* Hymn    Go Tell It On Mountain – GtG136  Prayer of Confession Generous God, we hear the good news, we celebrate it in the comfort of our homes and those places in which we feel at ease. Yet, you call us to be uneasy, you call us into places we would not ordinarily go and tell of a Savior born for us, a Messiah who would change the way we think, live, love and serve. Forgive us when we stay silent. Renew our hearts with the light that pierces the darkness and teach us how to live into this good news and share it with all. Amen.  Silent Prayers of Confession   Words of Assurance (responsive) Leader: We are a grateful people, for God’s mercy abounds! **People: We are also a forgiven people, free to love, to serve, and to share the Good News of Great Joy!**   The Peace Leader: The peace of Christ be with you! **People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)   The Proclamation of the Word   Prayer of Illumination   Generous God, quiet our hearts and our minds, even just for this moment, so that we may hear your Word more clearly and meditate on how we can bring this Word to life in our lives and the lives of others. Amen.   Scripture Lesson     Luke 2:22-40 **22**When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23**(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), **24**and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” **25**Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. **26**It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. **27**Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, **28**Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, **29**“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; **30**for my eyes have seen your salvation, **31**which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **32**a light for revelation to the Gentiles  and for glory to your people Israel.” **33**And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. **34**Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed **35**so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” **36**There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37**then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. **38**At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. **39**When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **40**The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.  Sermon Those Who Dream Will Not Keep Silent   The Response to the Word \* Hymn     What Star Beams So Bright – GtG152  Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer  “For this I pray to God” / “For this I give thanks to God.” Congregational Response: “**Hear our prayer, O God.”** And now, in confidence and in gratitude, we say the prayer together that Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, taught us to pray…  **Our Father,** **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven and give us this day our daily bread** **and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**  Offertory Prayer   Anthem Once In Royal David’s City   Hymn     The First Nowell – GtG147  Charge & Benediction Leader: We cannot keep silent, **People: For hope glimmers in unexpected places.** Leader: We cannot keep silent, **People: For we are called to be peacemakers.** Leader: We cannot keep silent, **People: For joy overcomes sorrow.** Leader: We cannot keep silent, **People: For Love is here.** | |  | | | | |