**Ministry of Cantor**

**Opening Prayer**

*The opening prayer begins with the sign of the cross.*

**Invitation to Prayer:**

Leader: Let’s all take a moment of silence

here in the midst of our busy lives

in order to collect the events of today

and bring ourselves, body and soul, into this gathering.

*Pause for a moment of sacred silence.*

**Gathering Song:**

**Scripture Reading:** Colossians 3:12-17

*Beloved, put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,* *bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.* *And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.* *And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.* *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.* *And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

**Prayer:**

Leader: I weave a silence on my lips.

 I weave a silence into my mind.

 I weave a silence within my heart

**ALL:** **I close my ears to distractions.**

 **I close my eyes to attentions,**

 **I close my heart to temptations.**

Leader: Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm,

 Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.

**ALL:** **Let all the tumult within me cease,**

 **Enfold me, Lord in your peace**

**and allow me to listen to the music of your Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Blessed Lord, whose Holy Spirit is the breath of all the lives, the source of our inspiration and creativity, we ask you to bless us in this ministry of serving your people through song. May our music be sincere in praising you and giving glory to your Son, Jesus Christ.

**ALL:** **In the name of God, Amen.**