



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 6, 2024 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING & PRAISE

PRELUDE

Connie Sublett & Jean Williams

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Sasser, *Lay Leader*

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers.

**All: We gather to share Word and sacrament,
to discern the ways of faithful service.**

One: Where in the world shall we serve our God?

**All: At home and school and business place—
in this community and throughout every land.**

One: How in the world shall we serve our God?

**All: By working toward justice where there is oppression,
by offering comfort where there is pain,
by sharing love where there is hatred.**

One: Why in the world shall we serve our God?

**All: Because Jesus calls us and the Spirit empowers us and to live out our faith.
Let us praise the God who guides and blesses the work of our hands!**

* HYMN OF PRAISE

In Unity We Lift Our Song

TFWS 2221

* PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Let us pray together:

**All: Gracious God, as we gather in worship on this World Communion Sunday,
we ask that you send your Holy Spirit to fall afresh on us.**

We pray for your Spirit to awaken new hope in us.

Grant us the vision to see the coming of your kingdom.

Help us to celebrate the glimpses of grace that you have given to each of us.

Knit our hearts together in worship and communion

so that we know we do not struggle alone

in working for your peace and justice.

We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The United Methodist Church celebrates an open Communion Table. According to The United Methodist Book of Worship:

*All who intend to lead a Christian life, together with their children
are invited to receive the bread and cup.*

*We have no tradition of refusing any who
present themselves desiring to receive the bread and cup.*



If you are unable to come forward, we will be happy to come and serve you. All ages are welcome to receive these gifts of God's grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Let us pray:

**All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

* HYMN OF DEDICATION *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

UMH 521

* DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

* POSTLUDE

Connie Sublett & Jean Williams

* Indicates congregation standing (if able)

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS = The Faith We Sing

I believe—if I am to believe Jesus—that God is suffering love. This God who suffers the most is also the God who saves the most. The wounded one is the redeemer. Thus, many cultures loved to picture Jesus as wounded from head to foot, and we thought the iconography was overdone. But it is exactly the same image that begins The Book of Job: “Job was struck down with malignant ulcers from the sole of his foot to the top of his head” (2:8). He who carries all, understands all. He who has suffered all, has a universal compassion. He who has been afflicted and lived is the bearer of hope. The wounded one is always the gift given.

—Richard Rohr, OSF

TABLE BLESSING

To your table you bid us come.
You have set the places, you have poured the wine,
and there is always room, you say, for one more.

And so we come.
From the streets and from the alleys we come.
From the deserts and from the hills we come.
From the ravages of poverty
and from the palaces of privilege we come.

Running, limping, carried, we come.
We are bloodied with our wars,
we are wearied with our wounds,
we carry our dead within us,
and we reckon with their ghosts.
We hold the seeds of healing,
we dream of a new creation,
we know the things that make for peace,
and we struggle to give them wings.
And yet, to your table we come.
Hungering for your bread, we come;
thirsting for your wine, we come;
singing your song in every language,
speaking your name in every tongue,
in conflict and in communion,
in discord and in desire, we come,
O God of Wisdom,
we come.

“SHALL WE RECEIVE THE
GOOD
AT THE HAND OF GOD,
AND NOT RECEIVE THE
BAD?”

One: Holy Spirit, as we offer the gifts of the bread and the cup for your blessing,
so we present ourselves:
our accomplishments, our failings, our hopes, and our dreams.
Help us to realize our weakness, so we might rely on your strength.
As we have heard your word, so may we listen to the cries of the poor.
As we are family with those sitting beside us today,
may we love our sisters and brothers in every corner of creation.
As you hold out the bread and the cup to us,
may we reach out to enemies to clasp hands as friends.
God in Community, Holy in One, all honor and glory are yours,
as we sing our praises through all eternity:

SUNG RESPONSE (to the tune of *We Gather Together*—UMH 131)

**We grieve for your world here; we cry, “How much longer?”
We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.
Yet here, in Christ broken, we’re fed and made stronger
To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.**

One: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**All: 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.**

SUNG RESPONSE (to the tune of *We Gather Together*—UMH 131)

**We rise from this table with new dedication
To feed the world’s children, to free the oppressed,
To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;
We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.**

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

pg. 453, Old Testament Pew Bible

RESPONSE TO THE READING

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word—
All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

A Man from Uz

Pastor Fleischer

INVITATION

One: Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast.

As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers
from above and below the equator, from the north and from down under,
from every time zone around the globe.
As today's sunlight inches across land and sea,
Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family.
All are invited and all are welcome. Come, for the meal is ready!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

One: To God be the glory; great things God has done!
To prepare ourselves to partake of this Holy Meal, let us pray:
Healing God, we come before you—
broken, yet seeking wholeness,
isolated, yet seeking community,
overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity,
shamed, yet seeking grace:

All: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.

One: God of Justice, we come before you—
selfish, yet seeking a generous heart,
arrogant, yet seeking humility,
responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness:

All: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.

One: God of Peace, we come before you—
afraid, yet seeking assurance,
agitated, yet seeking serenity,
angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart:

All: God, we yearn for the peace you promise.

One: Knowing that through Christ all things are made new,
we come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup,
and to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

**All: God, we submit ourselves to renewal through you.
This we pray through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

OFFERTORY *O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread* Jackie Livesay

* DOXOLOGY/BLESSING OF THE GIFTS UMH 95

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Loving and gracious God who summons galaxies into being,
we give thanks and praise to you.

We bless you for our world.

The diversity of our planet amazes us

from the prairies and pampas of the Americas

to the dusty deserts of Africa and Asia,

from the majestic mountains of Europe

to the vast outback of Australia.

We give you thanks for the multiplicity of humanity
with our complexity of color and culture

yet called into oneness-of-being through Christ.

With many tongues, yet with one voice, we honor you singing:

SUNG RESPONSE (to the tune of *We Gather Together*—UMH 131)

**We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.
We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.
We hear Jesus' welcome — inviting, forgiving;
We know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.**

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

He prayed that we might be one as he is one with you, O God,

and he asked that we might be known by the love we have for one another.

Today we join with his family in all the world to share at his holy table

On the night he was betrayed,

he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,

gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

SUNG RESPONSE (to the tune of *We Gather Together*—UMH 131)

**We dine at your table as sisters and brothers,
Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.
The bread and the cup that we share here with others
Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.**