

October 1, 2023, Celebration Service (8:50 AM)  
World Communion Sunday

Prelude

Gathering Music & Light Brought into Worship: Celebration Choir: *Umoja Tunaimba* (United We Sing)

Welcome / Communion Offering Message for Christ Foundry

†Congregational Hymns

*They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love* (Faith we Sing Hymnal #2223 Verses 1 & 4)

*One bread, One Body* (United Methodist Hymnal #620 Chorus, Verse 1, Chorus)

*This Is My Song* (United Methodist Hymnal #437 Verses 1 & 3)

Joys & Thanksgiving Prayer

Offering: Sunshine Gospel Singers: *The New Doxology*

Doxology 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Prayer

Forgiving God, on this World Communion Sunday, empower us to serve you fully, to share the resources we have with those who have less, to weep with those who weep, and to laugh with those who laugh. Help us to be good stewards over the earth you have placed in our care; help us to unite in love and concern for one another, in our local community and with our siblings in all the world. Unite us with Christ and with one another. Amen.

Prayer of Response: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* (Faith We Sing #2193)

†Prayer of Illumination

**Loving God, we thank you for presence with us through scripture.**

**By your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to your words of transforming love. Amen.**

Scriptures

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good

pleasure.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north;  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.**  
(United Methodist Hymnal #548)

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.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Serving of the Elements Celebration Ringers: *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

Final Hymn *Church of God, United* (United Methodist Hymnal #547)

Invitation to Christ and the Church

Receiving of New Members

(Congregational Response)  
**We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you at Christ United Methodist  
Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our  
prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be  
glorified through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Benediction (The Light of Christ Taken into the World)

Benediction Response

*They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love* (Faith we Sing Hymnal #2223 Chorus)

Postlude