

*Order of Worship*  
*EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*  
9:30 am – October 1, 2023

***Participating Live?***

*Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.*

**PRELUDE**

*Bread of the World*

James Mansfield

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Kyle Hanks, organ

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JASON TAKAGI**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Fran Turner, liturgist

All around the world, Christians are gathering to worship today, and to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

**As we worship together here, we recognize our brothers and sisters in different lands, with different cultures and practices, but all worship the same God and following the same Christ.**

**OPENING HYMN**

*Uni Espiga*

UMH 637

Words and Music: Cesareo Gabaraín © 1973 OCP Publications, Song #82880. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #734744-A. All rights reserved.

1. Sheaves of summer turned golden by the sun, grapes in bunches cut down when ripe and red,  
Are converted into the bread and wine of God's love in the body and blood of our dear Lord.

2. We are sharing the same communion meal, we are wheat by the same great Sower sown;  
Like a millstone life grinds us down with sorrow and pain, but God makes us new people bound by love.

3. Like the grains which become one same whole loaf, like the notes that are woven into song,  
Like the droplets of water that are blended in the sea, we, as Christians, one body shall become.

4. At God's table together we shall sit. As God's children, Christ's body we will share.  
One same hope we will sing together as we walk along. Brothers, sisters, in life, in love, we'll be.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE**

*Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32 (NRSV)*

Fran Turner, liturgist

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**A TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN** (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

**PREPARATION HYMN**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

UMH 189

Words: Münster Gesangbuch, 1677; Trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873. Public Domain.  
Music: Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842; arr. Richard Storrs Willis, 1850. Public Domain.

- 1 Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son,  
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.  
2 Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.

4 Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Diane Rehfield

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

*All Are Welcome At The Table*

by Mary McDonald

VFUMC Chancel Choir; Clara Johnson, conductor; Kyle Hanks, piano

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I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days. Alleluia!  
All are welcome at the table of the Lord. Alleluia!  
Gonna sit with my brothers and sisters one of these days.  
At the table, come and dine; feast on the bread and drink the wine.  
Come and meet us at the table of the Lord!  
All of God's children, come and sit down, and glory in the One who wears the crown!  
All are welcome at the table of the Lord!

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of love, you sent us Jesus, full of compassion and grace. We seek to be like him. Help us to live with kindness and humility, with compassion and grace, with patience and love. As we dedicate these gifts to your work in the world, we also dedicate ourselves to continued growth in all of your ways. Strengthen our resolve, bless us in our growth, and bless these offerings, we pray. Amen**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we know that we have not always lived according to your will. We know that at times we can be untruthful; that we can be apathetic in the face of great need; that we sometimes grow skeptical and cynical; and that we often choose to do what is best for us, rather than listening well to others and working together with them. Yet we know that there are people all around the world who care as much as we do for their lives, their families, and their countries. There are people of faith in every land, with ideas about how we might live out our faith in ways that we could benefit from, just as we have things to share about our faith that would benefit them. Forgive us we pray, and accept this Statement of Faith as our plea to you to help us courageously grow into better ways.**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH**

In defiance of corruption and falsehood,  
**we commit to truth and integrity and we pray for honesty and uprightness to increase in our world.**  
In defiance of apathy and hatred,  
**we choose to be proactive in love and we pray for understanding and peace to increase in our world.**  
In defiance of skepticism and cynicism,  
**we embrace the mystery of faith and we pray for humility and wonder to increase in our world.**  
**In defiance of self-interest and human arrogance,**  
**we celebrate God's salvation and we pray for compassion and faith to increase in our world.**  
In defiance of all that would oppose God's purpose among us,  
**we choose again to follow Christ, and we continue to pray, not just now, but at all times. Amen**

Written by John van de Laar © Sacredise.com

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The same God who led the people out of slavery, and rained down manna from heaven, knows our wants and need, and hears our cries. Remember that God is love, and we are heirs to amazing grace.

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (found on p. 17 of The United Methodist Hymnal)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us lift up our 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:

*Sung:* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth  
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one  
who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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... As we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
*Sung:* **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

... All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.  
*Sung:* **Amen.**

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## 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.**

## \*BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS

### SENDING HYMN

### *Song of Hope*

TFWS 2186

Words: Alvin Schutmaat. Public Domain. Music: Argentine folk melody. Public Domain.

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;  
Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

¡Dios de la esperanza, danos gozo y paz! Al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad.  
Dios de la justicia, mándanos tu luz, luz y esperanza en la oscuridad.  
Oremos por la paz, cantemos de tu amor. Luche mos por la paz, fieles a ti, Señor.

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;  
Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

## BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE**

*Sing Praises*

David Paxton

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Kyle Hanks, organ

*Prayer Requests*

**Westlake Village UMC**—Pastor Walter Dilg Jr.

**Van Nuys UMC**—Pastor Sang Ho Yi

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

FUMC Staff:

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