

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



RSVP

October 4, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: David Wade

Welcome

Prelude

Lyric Interlude

Gustav Merkel

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from near and far; in-person and virtual, live on Sunday and all week long! Come! Come and prepare to take your next step in faith. Come and worship Jesus Christ together!

People: **We come, ready to respond to God's grace in our lives!**

Leader: We have received a special invitation. God is inviting us to special moments of fellowship, relationship and redemption. Gifts are included!

People: **We are called to respond to God's invitation. When God calls, will we answer? I will!**

Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West

(verses 1, 3, and 4)

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
 3. In Christ is neith - er Jew nor Greek, and
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in

him no south or north; but one great fel - low -
 high com - mun - ion find; his ser - vice is the
 neith - er slave nor free; both male and fe - male
 him meet south and north; all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 heirs are made, and all are kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

Opening Prayer

Lord, thank you for the gifts you have freely given to us. Help us discern them and use them to your glory. Thank you for inviting us into relationship. Help us to respond "YES"! And help our response be more than just a word. Help us to respond with action and faith. Amen.

Pastor's Preview

Young Disciples Chatting with The Rev

Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

(verses 1 and 3)

1. Pre-cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2. When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin-ger near,
 3. When the dark-ness ap-pears and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 when my life is al-most gone,
 and the day is past and gone,

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
 at the riv-er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:38-42

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God
People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

RSVP

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

The King of Love My Shepherd Is arr. Albin C. Whitworth

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 7](#) of this document.

Communion Anthem

When You Break the Bread

Ruth Elaine Schram

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

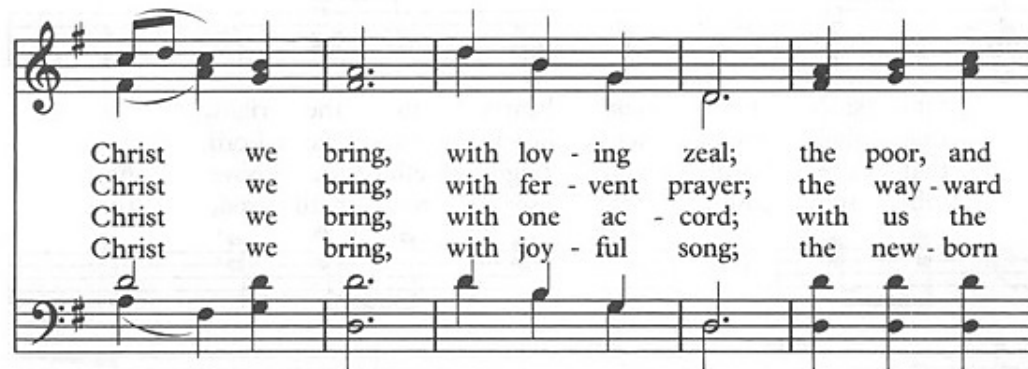
Hymn

Christ for the World We Sing

(verses 1 and 4)



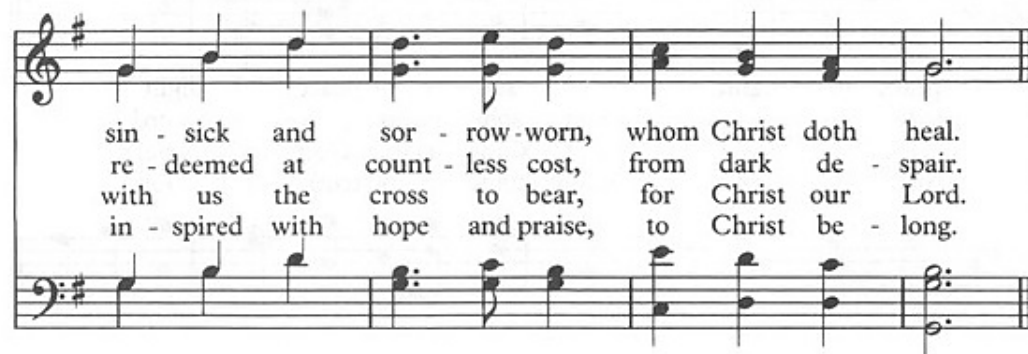
1. Christ for the world we sing, the world to
 2. Christ for the world we sing, the world to
 3. Christ for the world we sing, the world to
 4. Christ for the world we sing, the world to



Christ we bring, with lov - ing zeal; the poor, and
 Christ we bring, with fer - vent prayer; the way - ward
 Christ we bring, with one ac - cord; with us the
 Christ we bring, with joy - ful song; the new - born



them that mourn, the faint and o - ver - borne,
 and the lost, by rest - less pas - sions tossed,
 work to share, with us re - proach to dare,
 souls, whose days, re - claimed from er - ror's ways,



sin - sick and sor - row - worn, whom Christ doth heal.
 re - deemed at count - less cost, from dark de - spair.
 with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.
 in - spired with hope and praise, to Christ be - long.

Benediction

Postlude

Epilogue

Norman C. Guilbert

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A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: 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.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
power and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - - - - -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
est! Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: 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:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
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The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup