

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Christ is the vine, we are the branches. Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while, you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Let us pray.

Loving God, from your generosity comes this bread and this cup—gifts of the earth, shaped by human hands, sustained by your grace. As we share this bread and drink from this cup, make us attentive to your presence: in Christ who gives himself for us, in the community gathered at this table, and in the world you so love. We remember and proclaim the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, who has bound us to himself and to one another across generations. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and we offer ourselves— a living, holy sacrifice, devoted to your purposes in the world. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We offer you our praise, O God, lifting our hearts to you. In the communion of your love, you draw us into Christ, and through Christ we are drawn into you. As heaven and earth are joined in your grace, we lift our voices with all creation—earth, sea, and sky. With angels and archangels, with the saints who

have gone before us and those who walk beside us, with your people in every place, we sing your praise, and we join in the song of your unending grace:

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

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Lord, who enters fully into the suffering of our world and makes himself known to us in the breaking of the bread. On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread. After blessing it, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, *“This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”* In the same way, he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying, *“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this cup. Make them for us the communion of your body and blood, the living presence of your grace, the medicine of mercy, the nourishment of eternal life. And as we receive this bread and cup, unite us more deeply with you and with one another. Shape us into your body in the world, bearing your love, seeking your justice, sharing your compassion, and living for your glory. Through you, with you, and in you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

The COMMUNION

Here we meet the Christ who welcomed the outsider, forgave sinners, and drew near to the overlooked — now offering grace through this bread and this cup. With people everywhere, we proclaim that God’s grace precedes our sin, sustains our dignity, and remains at work in every human soul, even where brokenness runs deep. The gifts of God for the people of God ... **Thanks be to God.**

Share the Meal

Lenten Book Studies – Join Us This Season. All are welcome

Lent in Plain Sight

Mondays | 6:00 PM | Feb. 16–Mar. 30

Join us for a Lenten book study based on *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield. Through Scripture and reflection, we'll explore how God meets us in ordinary, everyday objects on the journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

Give It Up!

Tuesdays | 10:00 AM | Feb. 17–Mar. 31

A seven-session adult Bible study designed to deepen faith through Scripture, reflection, discussion, and prayer as we walk through Lent together. Books are available in the office for \$10.00

Shaping Our Future Gathering — February 7

The Leadership Team is hosting a Shaping Our Future Gathering on Saturday, February 7, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and everyone in the congregation is invited.

We will have a shared conversation about how our church helps people grow in their faith and discipleship. Rather than focusing on budgets or program planning, we'll spend time reflecting, praying, and listening together as we explore four key aspects of our life as a community: **Connecting, Belonging, Growing, and Leading**. Whether you've been part of this church for decades or just recently found your way here, **your voice matters**.

What to expect:

- A warm, welcoming environment and light refreshments
- Scripture, prayer, and a brief spiritual reflection
- Meaningful small-group and whole-group conversations
- A hopeful, forward-looking conversation about the future of our church

If you love this church, feel curious about where God may be leading us, or simply want to be part of shaping what comes next — **this gathering is for you**. If you plan to attend, please let the church office (508) 548-3050 or a ministry leader know so we can plan accordingly.

App Tip of the week: You can send invitations to friends within the APP! Go to a calendar event, hit share.. And you can send it via email or text!



WELCOME TO JOHN WESLEY U. M. CHURCH

We are a welcoming and active congregation which seeks to
**“LOVE GOD...LOVE OTHERS...SERVE THE
WORLD.”**

We invite you to experience meaningful worship services, engaging Bible studies, Sunday school, fellowship, preaching, life-changing local and global mission opportunities and more. We are an active congregation. At John Wesley, there is always room for everyone to become a part of something greater than ourselves. **WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!**

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Worship Every Sunday: 9:30 am

Wednesday 4th

- Prayer Meeting 11 AM (Youth Room)
- Celebration of Your Life Class with Tracy J 1:30 PM (Library)
- Bell Choir 5:45 PM (Sanctuary)
- Chancel Choir 7 PM (Sanctuary)

Saturday 7th

- Shaping Our Future Gathering 9 AM - Noon (Fellowship Hall)
- Membership Class 1 PM (Fitzgerald Room)

Sunday 8th

- Newcomers Gathering 10:30 AM (Fitzgerald Room)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Honor a loved one or give thanks by placing flowers on the altar.

The cost is \$60, and you take the flowers home after the service.

Envelopes, forms are available on the door across from the sanctuary—please place them in the offering plate. **And don't forget to sign the poster.**

Starting March 1st 2026
Sunday Worship will start at 10 AM.

4th Sunday After Epiphany

Series: Holding on and Letting Go

– February 1, 2026 –

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Growth is rarely dramatic. It is slow, uneven, and often unseen. Jesus speaks of a life that bears fruit, not through effort alone, but through abiding. Let us worship the God who grows life in us.

* GATHERING HYMN *“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”* UM Hymnal 500

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus says, *“Abide in me.... Apart from me you can do nothing.”*

People: We come to root our lives in Christ, the source of all true life.

Leader: God tends the vine — pruning what hinders growth and nurturing what bears fruit.

People: We desire God to shape us, even when growth requires letting go.

Leader: The fruit God seeks is lives formed by love, faithfulness, and mercy.

People: May what grows in us reflect the life of Christ in the world.

Leader: Let us worship the God who gives life and sustains it.

People: We worship the true Vine and the faithful Gardener.

PRAYER ☩

O God, you have made us branches in your living vine, created to bear fruit that gives life to others. We come aware that the flow of your life in us can be strengthened, that what is tangled can be tended, that what is weak can be renewed, and that what bears little fruit can still be nurtured. Feed us with your grace. Restore in us what has grown tired or thin. Shape us into people

who reflect your love in the world. As we worship, draw us closer to Christ, the true Vine and the source of our life. Amen.

* HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

UMHymnal 451

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ☩

We believe in God the Father, the source of life, who nurtures what is true and prunes what hinders growth. We believe in Jesus Christ, the true Vine, in whom we abide, from whom we receive life, and through whom our lives bear fruit. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who forms us over time, bearing in us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control for the sake of the world. We commit ourselves to abiding in Christ, to being shaped by grace and to living lives that bear fruit in love. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

arr. M. How

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The life of this church is sustained through shared generosity. Because people give, ministry happens— care is offered, needs are met, and community is built. As we receive the offering today, we give thanks for all that has been growing among us.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

* GIVING OF OUR GIFT

“Give Thanks”

Black Hymnal 2036

* PRAYER FOR OFFERING

* HYMN *“Open My Eyes, That I May See”* UM Hymnal 454

SCRIPTURE *John 15:1-8* *CEB translation*

SERMON **What Grows When We Live This Way**

HOLY COMMUNION – See insert

* HYMN *“Take My Life, and Let It Be”* UM Hymnal 399

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The flowers adorning the altar today were given by Frank O'Connor
in memory of Donna Goodliffe.

✠ *The opening prayer was inspired by Bill Loader's litany prayer. The affirmation of faith is inspired by John 15:1-8*



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Download our new John Wesley mobile app and stay connected.
Need help getting started? Stop by the Welcome Desk or
Connect Desk after the service—we'd love to help!

