

**A Service of Song, Word, & Table**  
**September 7, 2025**

\* Please rise in body or spirit.

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**    “Come Just as You Are”.    Joseph Sabolick, arr. Bill Ingram  
Mass ApPeal Handbells

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather in the presence of God:  
**who knows us when we wake up**  
**and when we go to sleep,**  
**and in all the moments in between.**

We gather in the house of God:  
**who has created a family for us,**  
**here as well as in the Bahamas,**  
**in Africa, and in Albuquerque.**

We gather to be the people of God:  
**who appeals to us to follow**  
**in love, in faith, in service.**

**HYMN**                      Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service                      UMH 581

**A READING FROM THE EPISTLES**    Philemon 1-21

This is the Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**HOMILY**                      “Restoring Kin-dom Partnerships”                      ABBEY REED

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**    Draw the Circle Wide                      Mark A. Miller  
Chancel Choir

**CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECEPTION OF PARDON**

Our sins are not to be hidden from God. Rather, we bring them into the Light and lay them on the Table, trusting in the One who shaped us for goodness and will transform our brokenness into wholeness. Please join me as we pray, saying,

### **Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

**Searching God, we are so attached to our possessions, we have trouble sharing them. We are so connected to our pleasures that we cannot feel the pain of those around us. We are so stuck on ourselves, we cannot sense our souls slipping away into the shadows.**

**Most merciful God: loosen us from the grip of the world, so we may feel your healing touch. Sever us from our sin, so your Spirit might bind us to you. Reshape us, redeem us, renew us, so we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*Silence is kept*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. This is the Good News - we are God's new creation.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are reshaped, renewed, forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **REGATHERING HYMN**

Make Me a Servant

TFWS 2176

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING & CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Some bear crosses hollowed out by hunger, some carry crosses called injustice. Sometimes our abundance is a cross which we struggle to bear. But as we learn to follow you, as we seek to be as generous as you, we discover that we can gift others with hope, with grace, and with peace. Receive our offerings this day, so they might bless your children in every way imaginable. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**OFFERTORY**      God Has Work For Us to Do      Mark A. Miller      Marshal  
Hollingsworth, baritone

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*UMH 94*

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the One who reshapes them into grace.**

People of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.

**We praise the One who has shaped us for love and service.**

With joy we praise you,

Creating God.

You stooped down and took the clay

lying on earth's floor,

shaping us in your image.

But we wondered

what it would be like

to follow our own paths

and detached ourselves from your side.

We counted the cost

of being your children,

and found it to be too much for us.

We pondered your words

and found them useless for our lives.

But you did not take your hands from us,

but continue to recreate us,

to reshape us, to redeem us.

Giver of breath, shaper of words,

all the living find voice to praise you,

as we celebrate with the people

of every time and place,

singing to your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who shapes us**

**with hands of grace and hope.**  
**Your wonder works of creation praise your name.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes,**  
**appealing to us on the basis of love.**  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, Redeeming God,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ,  
our Lord and Savior.  
Traveling with us,  
    he points out the paths  
        we are to walk.  
When he could command  
us to do whatever he wants,  
    he appeals to us  
        to follow his example.  
Whatever wrong we have done,  
whatever good we have failed to do,  
Christ charges them to his account,  
    that we might be counted  
        as your beloved children.

So, as we come to the Table of grace and hope,  
we remember that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, having counted the cost.**  
**Christ was raised, the foundation of resurrection being set in place.**  
**Christ will come, refreshing our hearts for all eternity.**

Spirit of the Living God,  
renew us with this bread and this cup  
which have been set aside for sacred us,  
even as you refresh our hearts.  
Fill us with all the goodness of the kingdom,  
that we may do good for Christ  
as we serve others:  
    in the ways in which we treat our families;  
    in our willingness to draw

the outcast to our side;  
in our efforts to be your healing hands  
to the sick and grieving.

Then, here at the Table and beyond;  
here in this moment, and through eternity:  
remind us that we are always with you,  
God of all places and times,  
Christ of those who suffer,  
Spirit of justice and hope:  
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

**MUSIC AT COMMUNION**      Dr. Dan Cummings

## **INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**\* SENDING HYMN**    Called As Partners in Christ's Service

Text:

Called as partners in Christ's service, Called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment, Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering, Reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer, All God's people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, In a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens, Breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision, Words of challenge, said with care,  
Bring new power and strength for action, Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow Ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow With a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, Our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving Hope and confidence and peace.

Text: Jane Parker Huber

Tune: BEECHER

**\* BENEDICTION**

It is God who has formed us as a community of faith.

**Now, we will go to find and serve our sisters and brothers.**

It is Jesus who has knit us together as partners in grace.

**Now, we will go to bear the burdens of those around us.**

It is the Spirit who gives us the words we need.

**Now, we will go to speak for justice and hope for all.**

**POSTLUDE**

Dr. Dan Cummings