

A Service of Song, Word, & Table June 29, 2025

* Please rise in body or spirit.

SOURCE: ALLISON

WELCOME

PRELUDE Dr. Dan Cummings

OPENING MEDITATION

A WAY OF PRAYER ARSENAULT

God, we long to know who or what you are, who it is who is Present in all life, to know the One we long to give our gratitude and praise to when we are overwhelmed with life's beauty, and the One we cry out to in times of pain, sorrow and despair.

We long for the world to be set right. In times like these we live in, when everything seems to be flying apart, unraveling, or imploding, collapsing into a muddy chaos, and we see that our human efforts cannot save the day, we beseech the One who is Unity and Coherence.

We long to survive, to continue living, to have life's necessities.

The Flow of Life is so often blocked by our mistakes, hard-heartedness and close-mindedness, or that of others. Help us re-open the Flow of Life, and help us let go of whatever in us blocks that movement.

Help us be safe from ourselves. Part of me continues to urge bad choices for my life - food and drink, activities and cultural content - that do not serve my life well.

May my heart's longings make it so.

HYMN O God, Our Help in Ages Past UMH 117

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Luke 9:51-62

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Baba Yetu Christopher Tin, arr. Emerson Chancel Choir/Marshal Hollingsworth, baritone; Lore Alán, tenor; Jeff Cornelius, percussion

Our Father, who art in Heaven. Amen! Our Father, hallowed be thy name.

Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive others who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one forever.

Our Father, who art in Heaven. Amen! Our Father, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Our Father, who art in Heaven. Amen! Our Father, hallowed be thy name.

Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive others who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one forever.

HOMILY "Between Here & There"

MUSICAL RESPONSE The Summons (vs 1,2,5) TFWS 2130

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECEPTION OF PARDON

Loving God, you give us freedom. In fact, in you, we live in perfect freedom. Fear tries to bind us. Idolatry comes chasing after us. Divisive arguments try to trap us in corners and keep us locked away from one another. These are not the freedoms you have in mind for your children, loving God. We confess, we have submitted to them in the past, but no more. Inspire us to live in the freedom you have given us for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. You set us free. Give us the courage to enjoy it. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Beloved children of God: hear and believe the good news, for freedom Christ has set us free to live anew.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

REGATHERING HYMN Lead Me, Guide Me TFWS 2214

INVITATION TO OFFERING & CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Liberating God, who calls us to true freedom, we offer these gifts as signs of our commitment to live by the Spirit's leading. May our generosity reflect your love that is joyful, peaceful, patient, and kind. Through your grace, may we sow seeds of compassion and justice, nurturing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and the world. Guide us to use our freedom not for ourselves but for service, so that we may build communities of faith and hope. With thankful hearts, we dedicate ourselves to your transforming work. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY Dr. Dan Cummings

* DOXOLOGY UMH 94

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIFFERENT!!!!

Lord Jesus Christ, you have invited us to come to this table.

We have come from many places and experiences;

we have come with all our differences;

We have come to the place where journeys meet.

You have called us into the heart of God.

The Lord be with you/and also with you.

On the night that Jesus was betrayed he told us to prepare a place for him. And then he offered us a sign. A sign of how he would give himself to us to give us new life. He had always loved us, and now he showed us how perfect his love was.

While his disciples were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread in his hands, like this, and he blessed it:

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation;

through your goodness we have this bread to offer,

which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

And then he said to them:

This is my body broken for you, do this is in remembrance of me.

Silence.

And then Jesus took a cup of wine, like this, and gave you thanks:

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become for us the cup of salvation.

And then he said to them: Drink this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Silence.

His disciples did not understand these words; how could they understand?

But later they would see Christ's body broken, his love poured out – his death for us so that we might share his risen life. The life he gave then, he shares with us now.

Lord Jesus Christ,

as we do in this place what you did once and for all,

breathe your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon this bread and wine

the they may be heaven's food,

renewing, transforming, sustaining and making us whole,

so that we may be your body on earth,

loving and caring for your creation,

where all are welcome and the poorest are fed.

Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free,

and fill each one of us with your love from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth

to feast at your table with all your saints. (followed by The Lord's Prayer)

Look, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven, is broken for the life of the world.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Jesus, Bread of life, Bread on the edge, Bread for the world.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Dr. Dan Cummings, piano

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* **SENDING HYMN** Lift High the Cross UMH 159

* BENEDICTION

Children of God: you are loved into freedom, set loose on the world to share the gifts of the Holy Spirit, so go and love your neighbor, all of your neighbors, as you love yourself, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Dr. Dan Cummings