

A Service of Song, Word, & Table
September 14, 2025

* Please rise in body or spirit.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Dr. Dan Cummings

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come seeking refuge in a world where goodness and good news can feel far away.

God is our hope and our refuge.

We come searching for safety in a world that often calls foolishness wisdom and wisdom foolishness.

God is our hope and our refuge.

We come longing for rest in a world that bombards us with all the ways people work against the abundant life and flourishing of their neighbors.

God is our hope and our refuge.

Come, children of God, to find refuge and hope in God who delivers and restores us.

May God teach us and guide us to find refuge and be refuge with and for our neighbors today and every day.

HYMN Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing UMH 400

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL Luke 15:1-10

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

Thanks be to God!

(11:00) ANTHEM I Sought the Lord Karen Marrolli Chancel Choir

HOMILY

MUSICAL RESPONSE Amazing Grace (vs 1, 4) UMH 378

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECEPTION OF PARDON

O Most Patient God,
we recognize how much we need you for life itself.
But how often have we behaved
as if we did not know or even care about you?
How often have we become the ones who do not carry out justice?
How often have we tried to dominate others,
even as you stand with them?
How often have we participated in the desolation of your creation
by our treatment of the heavens, the earth, and its waters?
Forgive us for these times when we have lost our way.
SILENCE

All Loving God, we want to be among those whom you seek.
Shower your mercy upon us.
Find us and lead us safely home to faithfulness.
My friends, when we are lost, all is not lost.
God is seeking us, ready to turn our lives around,
Gathering us in to the people of God.
Let us rejoice in God's mercy! **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

REGATHERING HYMN Blest Be the Tie That Binds (vs 1,4) UMH 557

INVITATION TO OFFERING & CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Steadfast and sheltering God, you are our refuge in every age, our hope when foolishness abounds and justice seems far off. Even when the world disappoints, you call us to faithfulness, to community, to generosity that reflects your own heart. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust in you and our desire to live differently, to live redemptively, and to live hopefully. Use them—and us—for the good that ripples outward, for the healing of hearts and the strengthening of your people. We give not because all is well but because you are good. Amen.

OFFERTORY Dr. Dan Cummings

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 94

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the God of the lost be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts to the One who searches for you.

**We lift them to our God, whom we find dwelling
in our deepest being.**

God's precious treasure, offer your thanksgiving to God.

**We glorify our God, who does not give up on us,
but rescues us when we have wandered away.**

When only the hot wind of chaos
blew, and there was no light,
you spoke, Immortal, Invisible God,
 your Word bringing forth fruit-filled lands,
 your Spirit moving the hills to and fro
 until they stood silent over the valleys.

In your wisdom, you shaped us
in your image, your grace freely offered.
 Foolishly, we chased after temptation's dreams,
 becoming skilled workers in constructing
 evil out of your good and wonderful gifts.

You showed the upmost patience towards us,
sending prophets with challenging words
to remind us of your promises to all,
but we were too foolish to listen.

So, you sent Jesus to us who,
like a friend who has lost touch
with those dearest to his heart,
reaches out to reconnect with them.

So, with the company of the saints in glory,
with the sinners and losers of this world,
we sing our praises to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God whose heart overflows with faith and love.
Joy echoes down the corridors of creation.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes searching for the lost.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The wise seek after you, God of Grace and glory,
for you sent Jesus, our Lord to us.
Like a woman searching the shadows
for a lost coin, he comes,
 to find your greatest treasure.
Like a brother who has lost
touch with his siblings, he comes,
 to reconcile us as your family.
Like a sister who would stay awake
while the younger children sleep, he comes,
 to be our true friend
 in every moment, in every place.
Like a shepherd who would face
danger in rescuing his sheep, he goes,
 to the cross, experiencing our death,
so he can carry us into
the resurrected life.

As we gather at his feast,
as we know we have been completely accepted,
we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, relentless in trusting God;
Christ was raised, as God purposed;
Christ will come, to rejoice with us in glory.**

As we come to your Table at this time,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon
this company of sinners
who long to be right-living people,
and on the gifts you have prepared.
As we eat of the Bread of Life,
strengthen our hearts and spirits,

so we may search for the lost.
As we drink from the Cup of Grace,
may we be found to be faithful,
as you appoint us to serve the oppressed.

And at that time when we will be with you,
gathered around the Table of the Lamb
with all who were lost, and like us, were found,
we will join our voices in singing your praises,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

MUSIC AT COMMUNION Dr. Dan Cummings

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*** SENDING HYMN** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross UMH 298

*** BENEDICTION**

We have been found by our God,
so now we will go to search for those forgotten by the world.
We have been welcomed by Jesus,
so now we will go to embrace the ones people look down their noses at.
We have been gathered as a community by the Spirit,
so now we will go to be a family to the people who long to draw near to hope.

POSTLUDE Dr. Dan Cummings