GOLDEN EARS
UNITED CHURCH

An Affirming Christian Community for Faith, Justice and Music
(*)- indicates that the congregation is invited to rise in body or spirit

October 6th, 2024
Theme: World Communion Sunday

God Calls Us Together

Greeting

Welcome

Acknowledging the Territory

All: As Christ's people, let us be people of Love, of Truth, and of Reconciliation

Call to Worship

If you are hungry,
there is room at God's table.
If you are weary,
there is a seat saved for you.
If you dream of belonging,
then we will practice belonging here.

From north, south, east, and west,
God invites us home.
Let us worship our nourishing God.

Centering Hymn MV 189 — Jesu Tawa Pano

Words: Patrick Matikenyiri
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Jesu ta-wa pa-no;
Jesu ta-wa pa-no;
Jesu ta-wa pa-no;
Ta-wa pa-no mu zi-ta re-nyu.
(Pronounced: Jeh-soo, tah-wah pah-noh… moo-zee-tah reh-nyoo)

Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here;
Jesus, we are here; We are here, for you.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prayer of Confession

Creator God,
We hear your invitation
to love our neighbors as ourselves,
to live like we belong to one another.
And yet, what is out of sight is often out of mind.
Forgive us for training our hearts
to focus only on what is in front of us.

Forgive us for ignoring
the tie that binds us to all of creation.
Forgive us for assuming that you being with us
means you can't be with others too.
Our gaze has been too narrow.
Open our hearts.
Expand our understanding.
Help us to celebrate the many places
you are present in this world.
Remind us of the ties that bind us to all of creation.
With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith,
I don't know what this past week
has looked like for you, but I do know this:
there is a seat at God's table saved for you.
And that is the case
even if you overlooked your neighbor,
even if you doubted God's love for you,
even if you chose scarcity over abundance,
or fear over joy.
God has a seat saved for you.

Trusting this good news,
join me in the words of forgiveness:
We are known. We are loved.
We are forgiven. We begin again.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Passing the Peace

*Hymn: MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

Words: Gordon Light
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Refrain:
Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

1. **God the still point of the circle,**
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

2. **Let our hearts touch far horizons,**
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

3. **Let the dreams we dream be larger,**
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

<u>God Speaks and We Listen</u>

Learning Time

MV 108 **Es Tu Palabra**

Psalm 119:105, adapted by Simei Monteiro
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Es tu Palabra lámpara para mis pies, Señor
Es tu Palabra lámpara para mis pies, Señor
Lámpara para mis pies y luz, luz para mi camino
Lámpara para mis pies y luz, luz para mi camino

Prayer for Illumination

Nourishing God,
Open up something new in us.
Open up curiosity or hunger.
Open up attentiveness or compassion.
Open up the parts of our hearts
that need your centering Word most.
And then, like yeast in bread,
may your love expand in us.
We are listening.
We are hopeful.
Amen.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to

me.’ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

One: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us:
All: Thanks be to God!

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a nourishing God
who provided manna in the wilderness and water from the rock.
We believe in a with-us God, Jesus of Nazareth,
who set tables for the lonely and ate with the forgotten.
We believe in an expansive God—the wild Holy Spirit—
meeting us in ritual, regardless of where we gather.
Trusting that good news, we come to the Table.
We pull up extra seats.

We learn each other's names.
We bless the food.
We tell the story.
We remember Christ's love,
and we look for God in all of it.
We believe.
Help our unbelief.
Amen.

***Hymn: MV 199 When At This Table**

Words: Shirley Erena Murray
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1. **When at this table I receive a blessing,**
the broken bread, the wine of life for me,
then let me share the peace with you, my neighbour,
and let the Spirit set our spirits free.

2. **If at this table I have need of healing,**
unbidden grief, relationship gone wrong,
then let me know the hands of God enfolding,
and let lament become believing song.

3. **If at this table I forget the hungry,**
the dispossessed and warfare's spreading stain,
then let this bread become the bread of judgment,
this wine the sharp awareness of that pain.

4. **If at this table I make dedication**
   to give my life in serving what is good,
   then let my centre be where God invites me,
   and show the words of Jesus understood.

5. **What faith I have, I bring to join this table,**
   what hope I hold, in Christ is taught and true;
   with brothers, sisters, I will share the blessing,
   the feast where God is making all things new.

Celebrating God's Gifts – Offering

Invitation to Offering

Special Music

Offering Prayer:

Generous God,
You gift us with sunlight, which grows the wheat,
and rain, which nourishes the soil.
You gift us with bread, which fills our bellies,
and community which fills our hearts.
You gift us with rituals that ground us,
and music that opens us.
You gift us with stories that teach us,
and laughter that lifts us.
So for all these gifts

and countless others,
we say thank you.
Take this offering and use it for your good.
We are grateful.
We are full to the brim.
Amen.

***Offering Song: VU 541** **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Words: Thomas Ken
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English:
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Japanese:
A-me-tsu-chi ko-zo-ri-te
ka-shi-ko-mi ta-ta-e-yo,
mi-me-gu-mi a-fu-ru-ru
chi-chi-mi-k mi-ta-ma-o

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of all be with you!
May that God be with you, as well!
We will join our hearts with all of God's people,
offering them to the God who loves us.
God fills our hearts, our lives, with overflowing grace.
With voices in every tongue, of every faith,
we will sing our praises to God.
We offer glory and thanksgiving to our God.

God of the lost and the found,
On this World Communion Sunday,
we admit that we are hungry.
We are hungry for justice
We are hungry for beauty.
We are hungry for peace in the corners of the world that ache.
We are hungry for friendship across all the things that divide.
We are hungry for closer relationships and deeper faith.
We are hungry for bread that nourishes our bodies and souls…

VU 951 Santo, Santo, Santo

Spanish

Santo, santo, santo. Mi corazón te adora!

Mi corazón te sabe decir; Santo eres Dios!

English

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God!

PRAYER OF JESUS

Everpresent God
hallowed be your name,
your kindom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts
as we forgive,
as we forgive our debtors,
save us from our trials
and deliver us from evil
for the kindom, and the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for evermore.
Now and forever. Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,
Everytime we come to this Table, we look for you.
We come looking for welcome,
looking for reasons to hope.

And just as you promised, you have met us here.
What a gift! We may never be the same.
So as we prepare to leave this place,
may we go with the memories of this holy meal clinging to us.
May we remember what it felt like to be welcomed to your Table,
and may we welcome others with that same warmth.
May we remember what it felt like to have a meal where all were fed,
and may we work for a world where none are hungry.
May we remember what it felt like to draw closer to you,
and may we continually seek you out with all that we do.
Feeding God, week after week we look for you.
Week after week, you meet us here.
Thank you.
May we never be the same.
Amen.

God Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

LIFE AND WORK OF THE COMMUNITY

***Hymn: VU 646** **Siyahamba**

Words Traditional South Africa trans Anders Nyberg 1984
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1 We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,

we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.
(the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,)
oo-oo, (marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

2 **Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',**
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
(khanyen' kwenkhos'.)
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,)
oo-oo, (hamba,)
siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
(khanyen' kwenkhos'.)
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,)
oo-oo, (hamba,)
siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

***Commissioning and Blessing**

Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
may you leave hungry—
hungry for justice.
May you leave hopeful—

hopeful for the day when we will return to God's Table.
And may you leave knowing, deep in your bones,
that nothing can separate you from the love of God.
For no matter where you go—
north, south, east or west—
the God of creation will have a seat saved for you.
Go, and love likewise.
Amen.

***Going Out Music MV 140** **As Long As We Follow**

Words: Joseph Kabemba, Congo
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Na nze - la no lo - la to – ko – tam – bo - la ma - lem-be, to – ko tam-bo – la.
Na nze-la no lo-la to-ko yemb-ba na e -se – ngo ma - lem-be, to – ko tam-bo – la
Na nze-la no lo-la to-ko - te – ya na e – se – ngo ma - lem-be, to – ko tam-bo – la
Na nze-la no lo-la to – ko – bon-de -la ma – si -ya ma - lem-be, to – ko tam-bo – la

Ma -lem – be,
ma – lem – be,
Ma – lem – be to - ko - tam- bo - la

As long as we follow
in the way that God is leading,
we know God's reign will surely come.

Refrain:

We know this, we know this.
Yes, God’s reign will surely come.

Postlude

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org