



“For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”~ Luke 14:11 (NRSV)



This 1940 photograph shows an impoverished migratory family in their trailer in an open field in Arizona without sanitation or water.

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“WE ACKNOWLEDGE YOU”

DONALD LAWRENCE

Chorus

Holy Spirit You are welcome
come on in
Take a seat inhabit our praise
God of Zion Judah's Lion
We acknowledge Your Presence
Oh Lord
Oh ohh oh ohh oh ohh
We acknowledge Your Presence oh
Lord

Verse

God of Mercy show Your Glory
As we enter this place
Show us Your Face
God of Grace give us peace
We welcome Your Presence oh Lord

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

Our souls wait in silence;

Our hope rests in God

Our rock

Our salvation

Our refuge.

We will not be shaken.

In this time of worship,

We pour out our hearts

because we trust in God's steadfast love. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“ALL WHO HUNGER GATHER GLADLY”

SEE PAGE 9

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

God of compassion and mercy, you sent us your Son as the savior of the world, and told us to love one another as much as you loved us.

Yet, we struggle to love each other. We have a hard time loving those who are not like us, who disagree with us, or who ask us to face the truths about ourselves.

You told us to love one another, because love is from God. And we often do not love those we think are dirty, hungry, lost, or undesirable. It is written that perfect love casts out fear, and yet we are afraid. Afraid for our safety, our wallets, and how others perceive us.

Forgive us, God, and show us how to love the way you command us to love. Release us from our judgment and our fear. Open our hearts so that they might receive your perfect love for us, and offer it to the world.

(Silent Confession)

Friends, the good news is this: love is from God, and we are loved by God. God sent Christ into the world to atone for our sins, and in him we are forgiven.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

STUDENT MINISTER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a non-contact way that's comfortable to you and your neighbor.

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.
God makes peace between us. Let us share it
Peace be with you! **And also with you!**
Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“THE SUN NEVER SAYS”

HAFIZ

This poem illustrates the positive outcome of humility.

Even
After
All this time
The Sun never says
To the Earth
“You owe me.”
Look what happens
With a love like that,
It lights the
Whole
Sky.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Please, join me in prayer.

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 14:1, 7-14

NRSV

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 14, verse 1 and verses 7 through 14.

“One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this Parable.

‘When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take

The place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say, “Give this person your seat.” Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.

But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, “Friend, move up to a better place.” Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

Then Jesus said to his host, ‘When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteousness.’”

Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

DR. CATHERINE WILLIAMS

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

We bless you, O God,
for you hold our souls in life
and will not allow us to stumble or fall.
We pray for those whose faith is being tested,
who are ensnared in the troubles of life,
or who are burdened with injustice or fear.
We pray to you, O Lord, for you are good;
your mercy endures forever.

We pray for all who watch chaos swirl around them:
refugees, victims of war or natural disaster, and those in poverty.

We pray to you, O Lord, for you are good;

your mercy endures forever.

We pray for those who seek spiritual peace,
who long to hear the promise of your love made real;
we pray that we might have the courage to speak your word.

We pray to you, O Lord, for you are good;

your mercy endures forever.

We pray for those who cry out due to pain, illness, or grief.
Pour out your healing, so that everyone might tell of your goodness.

We pray to you, O Lord, for you are good;

your mercy endures forever.

We pray for those who seek forgiveness,
and for those who might extend the hand of reconciliation.

We pray to you, O Lord, for you are good;

your mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider Please rise, as able, as we enter the liturgy of Holy Communion.
Community of saints, beloved of God, we are invited to come and
gather at the table of love and liberation, to feast on the dreams of
God, to be nourished by a taste of what God desires to do among us.

S. Minister Come, and love relentlessly; following Christ on paths of
uncertainty, taking risks for one another, calling down unjust power
from its throne and lifting up the lowly, the impoverished, the
burdened. Blessed are those, Jesus said, who hunger and thirst
for righteousness for they will be filled.

Presider And so let us come to the table, expectant, eager, open, to tasting the rich blessings of heaven born from unexpected places and people, and experiences.

In this meal, we remember the life, death, and resurrection of the One who still takes on flesh among us today. On the night he would be arrested, Jesus gathered his friends and companions. In the midst of a tense and dangerous time, they found each other at table, connecting over the story of God-enfleshed among them. And as they did so, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread and shared it with his disciples saying,

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he also took the cup, gave thanks to God, and shared it with his disciples, saying,

“Drink this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so we pray, Come Holy Spirit, Breath of God, Renewer of Life, settle on these gifts and all who gather here, that we might be transformed in our remembrance of your radical love, your eternal embrace, and your grace that makes all things new.

For the sake of our shared lives, for the life of this land on which we live, and the lives of those yet to come, nourish us and renew our hope that soon Christ may rise again among us. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRISIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty eco-friendly cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the minister at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

COMMUNION SONG

“AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE”

NCH332

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRESIDER

Creator God,
we give you thanks for the grain farmers,
the bread bakers, the grape growers, the juice makers.

Redeemer God,
we give you thanks for all that we remember as we have shared this meal:
your birth, your life, your death and resurrection.

Sustaining God,
we give you thanks for the eternal presence of your Spirit with us,
surrounding us and filling us with Divine life.

**May this meal we have shared renew us and inspire us
to join more joyfully with you
as you work for peace and justice in the world. Amen.**

***CLOSING SONG**

“HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER”

UMH 560

***BENEDICTION**

[All are invited to turn toward the Preacher at the Baptismal Font.]

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*Like the Sun, let us live humbly.
Let us leave open seats at our table,
And welcome in,*

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly 509

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel - come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil - der - ness and wan - dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The United Church of Canada minister who wrote this text was introduced to shape note tunes at the 1990 Hymn Society conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Afterwards she vacationed with friends nearby and worked out this text while humming this tune as she walked up and down the beach.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1990
 MUSIC: William Moore's *Columbian Harmony*, 1825
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

HOLY MANNA
 8.7.8.7.D
 (alternate harmonization, 396)

Cover Art: Lange, Dorthea. "Children in a Democracy—On Arizona Highway 87, Maricopa County". 1940.

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:On_Arizona_Highway_87,_south_of_Chandler,_Maricopa_County,_Arizona._Children_in_a_democracy._A_migrant_family_in_the_1940s_-_NARA_-_522527.jpg

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***The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.**

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.