

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

September 7 and 10, 2022



*“And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”*

*~ Luke 14:27 (NRSV)*



This 2007 painting is a portion of a larger work which hangs over the altar of St. Matthew's Church in Copenhagen. The people are listening thoughtfully to Jesus' teaching.

# Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“I GIVE MYSELF AWAY”

HINN AND McDOWELL

*Chorus*

I give myself away  
I give myself away  
So You can use me

*Verse 1*

Here I am  
Here I stand  
God my life is in Your hands  
I am longing to see  
Your desires revealed in me

GREETING

PRESIDER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

Come! Join the fellowship of God’s people–  
People who gather as faithful disciples of Christ.

**We seek the One who frees us from uncertainty and doubt.**

Come! Join the welcome of God’s people–  
People who meet together for justice and peace.

**We seek the One who is trustworthy, the One who gives us what is good.**

Come! Join the celebration of God’s people–  
People of the One who was, and is, and shall ever be.

**We raise our voices in praise and honor to God, and worship the One who is faithful.**

\*OPENING HYMN

“TAKE UP THY CROSS” vs. 1, 2 & 4

UMH 415

## \*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

### “LET EVENING COME”

JANE KENYON

This poem offers a resolved stance to let the evening come, let everything else go, because of God’s comfort.

*Reader*

Let the light of the afternoon  
shine through clinks in the barn, moving  
up the bales as the sun moves down.

Let the cricket take up chafing  
as a woman takes up her needles  
and her yarn. Let evening come.

Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned.  
in long grass. Let the stars appear  
and the moon disclose her silver horn.

Let the fox go back to its sandy den.  
Let the wind die down. Let the shed  
go black inside. Let evening come.

To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop  
in the oats, to the air in the lung  
let evening come.

Let it come, as it will, and don’t  
be afraid. God does not leave us  
comfortless, so let evening come.

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### STUDENT MINISTER

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. **Amen.**



A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 14, verses 25 through 33.

“Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ‘If anyone of you comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers, and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, “This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.”

Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.”

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

**SERMON****DR. BABER (07-SEPT)****PATRICIA HALL (10-SEPT)**

## 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**

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.

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.

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.

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**PRESIDER**

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**

**"THE OPEN TABLE"**

**MARK MILLER**

**SEE PAGE 10**

## 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

“HERE I AM, LORD” vs. 1 & 3

UMH 593

### \*BENEDICTION

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

### SENDING & POSTLUDE

*May we feel surrounded by  
the peace that passes understanding.*

*May we know that we belong  
in that Divine Spirit.*



# The Open Table



1. Come, oh come, come to the ta - ble. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Cir - cle round, let's join to - geth - er. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. God is love; Love is cre - at - ing \_\_\_\_\_




\_\_\_\_\_ Gath - er 'round, come with - out fear. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Share your joys, and bring your tears. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ some - thing new, right here, right now. \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ Known by name, here at the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Strength and hope found at the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ We're chil - dren of God, here at the



ta - ble, \_\_\_\_\_ this ta - ble; \_\_\_\_\_ wel - come  
 ta - ble, \_\_\_\_\_ this ta - ble; \_\_\_\_\_  
 ta - ble, \_\_\_\_\_ this ta - ble; \_\_\_\_\_



here, to the ta - ble of love. \_\_\_\_\_ love.  
 1., 2. 3.

From: *Roll Down, Justice!* (CGBK72).

Text: Mark A. Miller.

Music: *The Open Table*, by Mark A. Miller.

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

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**LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM**

Equilla Curry, Rev. Liz Fulmer '20, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke '21, Stephanie Oelrich, Cam Richesson, Max Staley, Beth Taylor, and Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner '18.  
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

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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.*