



Celebration of Worship

*Gathering as God's people to be inspired to
live as a community of Christ*

+ Those who are able are invited to stand.

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS – The Faith We Sing

You are invited to respond with the **Boldface** responses.

PRAYER FOR CENTERING

*Almighty God, whose ways are far beyond our
understanding, help us to faithfully respond to your great
love for us, so that we may do your will by loving you and
one another. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

SERVICE OF LIGHT *The Acolytes*
Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *UMH 618*
Let Us Break Bread Together, v. 3

**Let us praise God together on our knees, let us praise
God together on our knees. When I fall on my knees
with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy
on me.**

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*

What do you bring to worship this day?

**We bring joy and thanksgiving for God's
forgiving love.**

What is this community in which we are gathered?

**It is a community of love and forgiveness, of
hope and peace.**

Christ breaks the bread of life for us.

**We are bound together in the love of Jesus
Christ.**

Praise be to God!

Amen!

INVOCATION

Unison

**From the beginning until now, loving God, we have
turned away from you, following lesser ways,
pursuing a lesser life than the life offered to us in
Christ. Yet you will not abandon us. You call out,
warning and wooing us to turn, to return to you.
Even when we fall away from sisters and brothers in
the church, you remain present with us. Help us to
love as you love—wholeheartedly—until we are
reconciled to you and to our neighbor. In Christ's
name, we pray. Amen.**

+ HYMN OF CELEBRATION *UMH 616*

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast

The Church Celebrates Christian Education

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Acts 2:42-47*

THE RECOGNITION *Responsively*

Dear friends, let us recognize those who have responded
to the call of God to become workers in Christian
Education. To teach, to administer the work of teaching,
and to support the work of teaching are ministries of
Christ among us. Those called to these ministries need
our loyal support and our prayers.

Let us pray. Eternal God, you have entrusted us with the
message of your power, grace, justice, and love. Provide
for us your guidance, that we may be teachers and learners
together. Believing that you are in our midst, we set apart
those who would serve in Christian Education. May they
serve you in nurturing the spiritual growth of all who are
entrusted in their care. Bless each one gathered before us,
enabling them to be channels of your grace. We pray
through Jesus Christ the Savior. Amen.

(Pastor to Christian Education Staff) You have recognized
God's call in your lives. Will you endeavor to develop
your gifts for teaching so as to continue to pass on the
Christian faith? Will you be faithful to the task, taking
seriously your role as learner, studying diligently the
Scriptures and traditions of the faith?

STAFF: WE HAVE HEARD GOD'S CALL TO TEACH
AND HAVE RESPONDED TO THAT CALL. WE TEACH,
TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROMISES TO SUPPORT,
SUSTAIN, AND ENCOURAGE US THROUGH GIFTS
SUFFICIENT FOR THE TASK. WE TEACH, RELYING
ON PRAYER AND THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT. WE TEACH, INVITING OTHERS TO
RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL IN
THEIR LIVES. WE TEACH, DEPENDING ON THIS
CONGREGATION TO UPHOLD US IN THIS TASK.

C: We pledge ourselves to pray for you and for the
educational ministry of the First United
Methodist Church family. We pledge ourselves
to enable, encourage, and love you in this
ministry. We pledge ourselves to be learners
with you, diligently studying with you the
Scriptures and traditions of the faith.

RESPONSE *UMH 139*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, vv. 3 & 4

**3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and
defend thee; surely his goodness and mercy here
daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty
can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.**

**4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and
restore thee, fitting thee well for the tasks that are
ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a mother
doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.**

The Church Shares

OFFERTORY INVITATION AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Dan Martin

+DOXOLOGY

UMH 621

Be present at our table, Lord; be here and everywhere adored; thy creatures bless, and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee.

The Church Listens for the Word

+THE WORD

John 6:22-34

CHORAL CALL TO WIGGLETIME

UMH 641

Fill My Cup, Lord

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord. Come and quench this thirsting of my soul. Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

WIGGLETIME

SERMON

Rev. M. Steven Meadows

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

Come, Share the Lord

arr. Larson

The Family of God Celebrates Communion

ORDER FOR COMMUNION

Responsively

We dare not come to this table trusting in our own goodness or virtue.

We come knowing we need forgiveness and trusting God to grant it.

We come because we are hungry for meaning and need to be fed. We come because Jesus Christ invited us.

We come as Christ's guests to the heavenly banquet.

We come in remembrance, but much more; in recalling the sacrifice of Christ for us we are moved to Christ-like identification with suffering humanity.

(Singing) "Jesus, Remember Me", p. 488

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

(Spoken) We join here not in passive recollection of ancient signs, but in active reflection of the flesh and blood realities which these signs represent. Jesus, stand among us today as host and celebrant!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Unison

EPISTLE LESSON

I Corinthians 11:23-26

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(The United Methodist tradition uses grape juice.)

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

GIVING AND RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

+PRAYER AFTER THE LORD'S SUPPER

Unison

We thank you, God, for the liberation that Christ brought to all people and for giving us new life by dying and rising that life might be more precious to us than death. Thank you for the wholeness that you have given to us in the flesh and blood of Jesus. Give us courage to live in ways that give life and celebrate living! Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

The Church Scatters to Share Good News

+HYMN OF DEDICATION

UMH 629

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

+ SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Acolytes

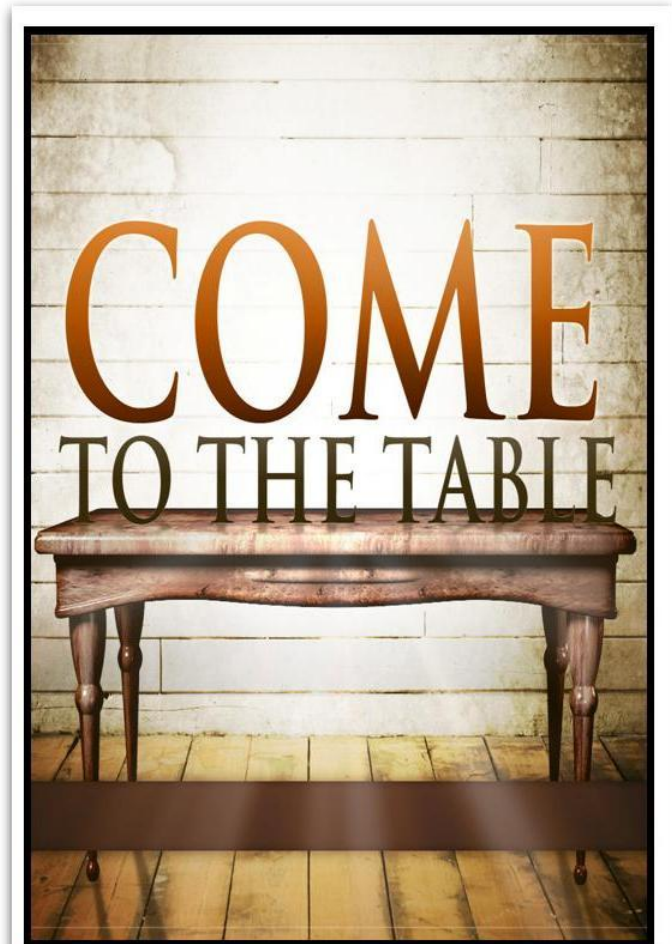
Jesus said, "You are the Light of the world."

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Dan Martin

...and the worship continues.



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Where hearts, minds, and doors are open!

7 September 2014

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. M. Steven Meadows, pastor