

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 **Bold** responses.

MOMENTS OF CENTERING

The ultimate protection against sinking during life's storms is developing your friendship with me. You waste a lot of time, ...worrying about storms you can see forming.... In the past many of the storms you had anticipated veered off in another direction, never reaching you. Although some of them did actually hit, usually they had lost much of their power by the time they got to you. I urge you to switch your focus from difficulties that may come your way to My Presence, which is always with you.

... Remember that I control the atmosphere of your life. Trust Me by relaxing and releasing your concerns into My capable care. It saddens Me to see you obsessing about possible problems rather than bringing these matters to Me. When you find yourself anxiously scanning the horizon of your life, use that as a reminder to seek My Face. You will not find Me off in the distance. I am here beside you, ...

Instead of wasting time worrying, devote that time to building a close friendship with Me. Talk with Me about everything that concerns you—your pleasures as well as your problems. I am interested in everything that matters to you because I am your perpetual Love. Remember that I am holding you by your right hand. I guide you with My own counsel, based on eternal wisdom; so, there's no need to worry about the future. When the time comes, I will personally take you into Glory. For now, just live near Me. My friendship is your best refuge in the storms of life.

-Jesus Lives, p. 272.

Good Morning! Welcome to Worship!

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP
PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Renee Warner*

HOSPITALITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Dan Martin*

+CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *UMH 261*

Lord of the Dance, v.5

They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsively*

Our hope is in God all of our lives.

God is a rock of refuge: a fortress against threat and shame.

God has held us since our birth.

So, we are never in the full grasp of the unjust and **cruel.**

In love, God saves and supports us.

Trusting in God, we continually offer our praise!

+INVOCATION

God of life, death, and resurrection, we are grateful for life and all its gifts. Increase in us the stuff that life is made of—faith, hope, and love, but especially love—that we may abide with you eternally through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, and our Lord. **Amen.**

+ HYMN OF PRAISE *UMH 578*

God of Love and God of Power

THE CHURCH IN MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

EPISTLE LESSON *I Corinthians 13*

CALL TO CONFESSION

God calls us to speak the truth, even when it is difficult, to others, and especially to ourselves. Confessing our sin in

prayer, we dare to speak the truth about ourselves to God, who desires to deliver us and to cast out our fear.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Responsively*

God, our Deliverer, we confess that we are too reluctant to speak and to live according to your truth. We grow comfortable with the way things are. We see ourselves as “insiders,” excluding those we consider “outsiders.” We find it easier to pluck up and pull down, to destroy and overthrow, than to build and to plant.

Forgive us, O God, for being hesitant disciples. Empty us of fear and shame.

Fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind. We pray this in the name of the One who humbled himself...all the way to a cross, Jesus the Christ.

+PERSONAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God has loved us since the beginning, and God's love for us will never end. Do not fear, but have faith in God's steadfast love, God's healing power, and God's ability to make all things new. By the grace of Jesus Christ, God forgives us in love, and calls us to abide in faith, in hope, and in love.

Amen.

THE CHURCH SHARES ITS BLESSINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY *UMH 94*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE CHURCH LISTENS

CHORAL CALL TO CHILDRENS SERMON

O How I Love Jesus, v. 1

UMH 170

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth. Refrain: O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

WIGGLETIME ...It's Children's Church Time!

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

SERMON Rev. Steve

SPECIAL MUSIC Renee Warner

THE CHURCH CELEBRATES HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION Pastor

Here is the company of heaven, seen and unseen. Here is the bread and wine to be broken and spilled. Here is Jesus the Christ, holy rebel, and sacred friend.

This is the belonging place.

Here are the people of God, saint and sinner. Here is the congregation of heaven, those ready and those not ready to receive. Here is the story of God, crucified and risen.

This is the belonging place.

Here is the table of life, open and free. Here is the grace of God, unconditional and without end. Here is the love of Jesus, given and given again.

This is the belonging place.

Whoever we are and aren't, whatever we believe and don't, we belong here—at this table.

COMMUNION THANKSGIVING Responsively

God of the Table, we live the story once more in the bread and wine, when Jesus talked of betrayal and promise, companionship and trust, blessing, breaking, sharing, remembrance, and renewal.

We pray that this bread becomes the food of life and living and that your spirit inspires us to see the whole story of salvation within it thus becoming a blessing, a calling and

a means of grace where the echoes of the angels' song surround us:

Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God. Hosanna in the highest.

Hear us in this thanksgiving and call us to the feast. And as the One who gave his life that we may have life taught us, so let us pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER Unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING AND RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The Bread of Life, shared with you.

The eating of the wafer.

The cup of the New Covenant, shared with you.

The drinking of the cup.

PERSONAL COMMUNION REFLECTION Dan Martin

THE CHURCH SCATTERS AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

+HYMN OF DEDICATION UMH 634

Now Let Us from This Table Rise

+BENEDICTION

God of gatherings and partings, lead us from this place of worship to the many places of service and need that we, gathered and sent by your Spirit, may be your people of grace and truth. May God— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— fit us for every good work to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

+POSTLUDE Dan Martin

...and the worship continues.

For the Bread, For the Wine
For the Word
We give You Thanks,
O Lord.



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
02 February 2025
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