

# WORSHIP SERVICE SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

FELLOWSHIP TIME 9:30

WORSHIP TIME 10:00

Please put your Joys & Concerns in the zoom chat box  
Have juice and bread available if you wish to join us for communion

**PRELUDE** Lamb of God & Just As I Am

**OPENING PRAYER** - Liturgist Linda Gay

You are such a gracious host, Lord God of all creation. Who are we to receive such goodness? You prepare a table for us, amidst our daily struggles, our successes and failures, even in the presence of our enemies. You anoint us, wash us, feed us. You

do all this. We confess that we tend to see our daily bread solely in terms of our own handiwork. But we are not self-sufficient. We need you. Forgive us. We need these brothers and sisters in Christ around us. Empower us. Shower us with your "holy manna" that we might be strengthened for the journey to which you have called us.

By faith we stand and worship. By faith we walk and work. By faith we profess that your Christ is alive, and that your spirit moves us to be and to do more than we ever thought possible. We pray all this in the name of the One who said "I am the bread of life. Amen.

By Peter Haynes

**OPENING HYMN** "Blessed Be Your Name" **WS #3002**

**JOYS & CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS**

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

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## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, this money is not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

## **PRAYER RESPONSE**

### **“Into My Heart”**

**FWS #2160**

Ensemble: Cristina Vandall, Dorothy Fassbender, Rob Bower - Accompanist Steve Haunschild

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS** - Liturgist

### **PSALM 149**

Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in its Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their couches.

Let the high praises of God be in their throats

and two-edged swords in their hands,

to execute vengeance on the nations

and punishment on the peoples,

to bind their kings with fetters

and their nobles with chains of iron,

to execute on them the judgment decreed.

This is glory for all his faithful ones.

Praise the Lord!

**ROMANS 13:8-14**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD**

**MESSAGE**

**"It's Wake Up Time"**

Rev. Effie E. McAvoy

**The Great Thanksgiving Communion**

*+Written by the Rev. Chelsey Hillyer, Sr. Pastor of Union United Methodist Church, St. Louis, MO*

*Jay O'Connor - Co - Lay Leader*

**ALL: God of mercy and justice, be with us. We lift our hearts to you, not because we have to, not because we are supposed to, but because it's how we respond to your unconditional love, because it feels good to know we are loved.**

**PASTOR:** As long as there have been people to tell them, our ancestors in faith have shared stories of your mercy.

**ALL: Of how you gave food to the poor, clothes to the naked and shelter to the lost.**

PASTOR: And as long as there have been people to tell them, our ancestors in faith have shared stories of your mercy.

**ALL: Of how you gave freedom to the enslaved, opportunity to the outcast, and peace to the war-torn.**

PASTOR: You acted with both mercy and justice,

**ALL: Rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, providing them with manna when they were hungry.**

PASTOR: And your people acted with both mercy and justice,

**ALL: Like the prophets who cried out to care for widow, orphan, and foreigner, and those who provided food, shelter, and community.**

PASTOR: You have shared your mercy and justice with us not only as gifts to be received from you, but as gifts that we are to share with the world. We see this gift most clearly in the gift of your Son Jesus Christ. Jesus showed us what a life of mercy and justice looked like: In mercy, he gave food to the hungry. In justice, he broke social custom and shared tables with the powerful and the lowly at once.

**ALL: In mercy, he cared for the sick.**

**In justice, he broke religious custom and healed on the Sabbath.**

**In mercy, he had compassion for the poor.**

**In justice, he spoke out against the Empire that held them in poverty.**

**In mercy, he washed his disciples' feet.**

**In justice, he died without protest to expose a corrupt system.**

PASTOR: On the night he was handed over to the unjust system that killed him, he protested by sharing a meal with his friends. There, he took bread, gave thanks for God's mercy in providing it, shared God's mercy by giving it to his friends, then called them to remember the injustice of his broken body every time they ate bread.

After they ate, he took the cup, gave thanks for God's mercy in providing it, shared God's mercy by giving it to his friends, then called them to remember the injustice of his spilled blood every time they drank wine.

**ALL: But that wasn't all. God's mercy and justice burst forth when Jesus died, and his resurrection gave hope to all those who hunger for mercy and thirst for justice. God will always equip those who seek to share mercy and justice. Even death cannot stop God's incredible grace.**

PASTOR: So, we ask God's Holy Spirit to be poured out on this meal, on these gifts of mercy: bread and juice, that we may remember Jesus' ministry of mercy and justice that these gifts of mercy may become for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may show mercy and do justice, not just for ourselves, but for the transformation of the world.

**ALL: The Lord's Prayer:**

**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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

**Giving of Bread and Cup**

**Prayer after Receiving**

**CLOSING HYMN "Draw Us In The Spirit Together" UMC #632**

Ensemble: Cristina Vandall, Dorothy Fassbender, Rob Bower - Accompanist Steve Haunschild

**BENEDICTION**