

# WORSHIP SERVICE AUGUST 1, 2021

## COMMUNION SUNDAY

Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy, Associate Minister Sandy Knapp  
Howard Gay                      Music Leader: Rob Bower

### Welcome & Announcements

**PRELUDE**    "Holy God We Praise Thy Name"

### OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, You who breathed your breath into us, inspire us to be who you have created us to be so that we might offer our best selves to benefit a world that so desperately needs support, hope, life and joy. We praise you for nudging us into the future you have created for each one of us. And all God's people say, Amen.

Please stand in body or in spirit

**MUSIC**                      "Here I Am, Lord"                      UMH 593

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH  
604 SEVEN MILE ROAD    HOPE, RI. 02831  
401-821-8217    [www.sovumc.org/give-now](http://www.sovumc.org/give-now)

Please stand in body or in spirit

### DOXOLOGY

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, these gifts are 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 “Heart of Creation”**

Please stand in body or in spirit

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **Isaiah 6: 1-8**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

### **SERMON**

“Called”

Rev. Effie McAvoy

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Creator God is with us!

**God is with us now!**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to God!**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One!

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

It is right and good, always and everywhere, to give praise to God, the Creator of all that is. love in a dog’s caress, grace in the

tilling and turning of soil, hope in a fresh season of spring,  
freedom in winged flight— all creation speaks volumes of God.

You created it all and called it good. You fashioned us from the clay of the earth and formed us on your potter's wheel. Even when we crack under pressure, even when we find ourselves broken into pieces, you are always there to lovingly mend and heal us. You promised to be our forever-God and you have remained faithful through ages and eons. And so, with all creatures of the earth and heavenly beings, with all that croak and sing, howl and yip, purr and squeak, we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving!

**Gathered here, we give praise and thanks to you Gathered here, we lift our voices Gathered here, in the glory of your love Hosanna, now!**

Creativity and Being is who you are, and so, wanting to dance in the arms of your beloveds You came to us in human form to breathe your own air in lungs, to feel your own dirt underfoot, to drink your own water for the quenching of holy thirst. You walked, talked, taught, and loved among us, creating what could not be forged outside of human touch. We needed a Mirror for our Souls. We needed to see Love in Action. And so you came. Jesus invited us to true communion— with you and with each other— stranger and friend, loved and unlovable, insider and outcast. Through the gifts of the earth that sustain and give us life, you broke open our hearts and challenged us to go and do likewise. It is our birthright—you reminded us—our nature, to call forth beauty and compassion in this world— for we are your image, capable of deep and abiding love, not just self-preservation. We ask you to infuse your church, your Body, With the peace and passion that is ours to offer.

And so we break this bread of life, paying forward the gift of love, keeping alive the reminder to “do this in remembrance of me.”  
And we pour out this cup of love, paying forward the gift of grace, keeping alive the reminder to “do this in remembrance of me.”

The narrative of hope is ours to share, repeating together after me...

Christ has died

**Christ has died**

Christ is risen

**Christ is risen**

Christ is living still!

**Christ is living still!**

I invite you to open your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer.

Like fresh rain in a drought, like sunshine breaking through clouds, like morning dew after a long night, pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us the manna we need to feed a hungry world and the salve we require to heal a hurting planet.

Challenge us, Spirit. Nudge us to reach out, to touch your holiness in all things and be changed by our encounters. Show us our oneness, our connections, always and already there. Open our eyes and once we see it, let us never un-see it. Let us know it. Let us live it. Let us share it.

We pray this in the name of your holy dancing three-in-one, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of all!

**Gathered here in the mystery of the hour Gathered here in one strong body Gathered here in the struggle and the power Spirit, draw near.**

## **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.**

Please stand in body or in spirit

**MUSIC**

“Send Me Lord”

UMH# 497

**CLOSING PRAYER**