

**WORSHIP SERVICE SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy, Associate Minister Sandy Knapp &
Liturgist Jeremiah Rainville**

Welcome & Announcements

PRELUDE "Power of Your Love"

OPENING PRAYER

O God, Wisdom of the universe, you bear the pain of your people. Grant us the gift of wisdom, that we may discern your way and live justly and graciously amid the struggles of this world. Amen.

By: Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Please stand in body or in spirit

MUSIC "Open My Eyes, That I May See" **UMH#454**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH
604 SEVEN MILE ROAD HOPE, RI. 02831
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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 "Blest Be The Tie That Binds"

Please stand in body or in spirit

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 7: 1-8, 14,15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD-THANKS BE TO GOD

SERMON

"Actions Matter?"
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

"Together We Serve"

FWS#2175

CLOSING PRAYER