

Sunday May 9, 2021
Love, Joy, Equity for ALL!

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: God speaks to the heart,
People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Offering compassion and hope.**
Leader: In our time of worship, God enlivens the mind,
People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Inviting curiosity and wonder.**
Leader: God awakens all spirits,
People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Fostering sacred connection.**
Leader: God nurtures our strength,
People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Creating unimagined possibilities.**
Leader: God calls the whole world,
People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **Inspiring extravagant love.**

Opening Prayer **Unison** *(Out loud, but muted)*

Creating Spirit,
we join with the chorus of all creation
to celebrate your wondrous deeds.
Fill us with your joy and train our ears for harmony,
so that we may contribute to the world you are already creating.
All this we pray in the name of Jesus,
who revealed what is possible through love. Amen.

Hymn # 495: Called as Partners in Christ's Service
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

- 1) Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

- 2) Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.
- 3) Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues free and fair.
- 4) So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Unwavering God, we keep asking what is it that you most want us to do with our lives in hope you might tell us something easier. Instead, You offer the same answer every time: Love one another as I have loved you.

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **We confess that our love for others is not always what we hope it would be.**

Leader: We are quick to judge and slow to offer grace.

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **We are swift to anger and resistant to make amends.**

Leader: We are prone to suspicion and resistant to build trust.

People: *(Out loud, but muted)* **We hear the greatest commandment, and if we are honest, we are filled with hesitation because it means we must change. Unwavering God, in these moments of stillness, hear our struggles with the love you call us to practice...**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news. God's love is so extravagant and inclusive that it knows no bounds. It transcends borders and speaks a universal language. Abide in that love. Find joy in that love. Be renewed by that love. Replicate that love in the world. Amen.

Passing of the Peace *(unmute for Passing of the Peace)*

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Psalm 98 (NIV)

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
² The Lord has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
⁴ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
⁵ make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.
⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.
⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;
⁹ let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

1 John 5:1-4 (NIV)

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves
the father loves his child as well.
² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out
his commands.
³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not
burdensome,
⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome
the world, even our faith.

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17 (NIV)

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Love, Joy, Equity for ALL!

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People (unmute yourself to offer a request, giving first names only, please)

Hymn #508 Prayer Is the Soul’s Sincere Desire (verses 1 and 5)

(sung muted but together)

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed;
The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.
O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer you too have trod: Christ, teach us how to pray.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

Offering Invitation

It is one thing to memorize the words of Jesus. But it is another thing to let those words transform us and rearrange our priorities and our lives. In these moments for quiet and reflection, what is it that God is inviting you to rearrange about your priorities? What is it that you want to offer to the Church and to the world as a practice of God's love?

Offering and Dedication **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

Bless these gifts and us to your service. Amen.

Benediction **Unison** (*Out loud, but muted*)

Friends, imagine what is possible. Imagine what our community would feel like if our own hearts embraced the unconditional love God has for us. Imagine what the nation would sound like if our words echoed the inclusive love God has for us. Imagine what the world would look like if our actions reflected the unwavering love God has for us. Now let us act in this revealing light! Come on let's do this together!!