

**Sunday August 22, 2021  
At The Crossroads**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** In this house you will find bread for your life's journey.

**People:** **We choose by faith to eat of this bread of life.**

**Leader:** Come. Stay awhile and eat this bread so you will never hunger.

**People:** **We can feel so alive as we are nourished by the power and grace of your presence, Living Christ.**

**Leader:** Come. Be strengthened to bear witness to what God intends for communities of faith to continue becoming as servants to all.

**People:** **Blessed with this vision of God acting through us we are shaped by a new resolve for greater ends we find through prayer and fellowship.**

**Opening Prayer** **Unison**

**We do not come here to eat bread that fills us for a day. Rather we come to be nourished by you and that the love you have for us fills us for a lifetime. May this food strengthen our discipleship. Grant that it will renew in us our commitment to proclaiming the gospel of peace through our ministries of peace and justice in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.**

**Hymn #329: Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts**  
*(Please see separate attachment for the score)*

*Hymn Leader: Carol Bellamy*

1) Jesus, the joy of loving hearts,  
fount of our lives, and light of all:  
From every bliss that earth imparts  
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.

2) Your truth unchanged has ever stood;  
you plead with all to call on you;  
To those still seeking, you are good;  
to those who find you, life is new.

3) We taste of you, the living bread,  
and long to feast upon you still;  
We drink of you, the fountain-head;  
our thirsty souls from you we fill.

5) O Jesus, ever with us stay!  
Make all our moments calm and bright!  
Oh, chase the cloud of sin away!  
Shed o'er the world your holy light.

### Prayer of Confession **Unison**

**We profess that you are God, O Holy One. We have no other gods, and yet, we do not always serve you with sincerity and faithfulness. Our “other gods” are not the ones of our ancestors—the ones beyond the River, or in Egypt, or of the Amorites. We struggle with “other gods” here and now that seek to fulfill us by consumerism and with self-importance. We hear gods who instill in us such fear of our enemies that we seek power from weapons of destruction. Help us, O God, to find fulfillment in you. Forgive us that we are skeptical of love’s transforming power. We repent of our sins and turn our hearts again to you. Amen.**

*Moments for Reflection and Silence*

### Assurance of Pardon

No other god cares for us as God does. No other god loves us as God does. No other god forgives us as God does. Thanks be to God.

### Passing of the Peace

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

### Reading

Carla Crompton

**Joshua 24:1-2 (NRSV)**

24 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

### **Joshua 24:14-18 (NRSV)**

14 "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18 and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

### **Special Music**

Carol Bellamy

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **John 6:56-69 (NIV)**

6:56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

6:57 Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.

6:58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

6:59 He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

6:60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?"

6:61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?"

6:62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

6:63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

6:64 But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.

6:65 And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

6:66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.

6:67 So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?"

6:68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.

6:69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

## **Musical Interlude**

**Sermon:** At The Crossroads

## **Music for Meditation**

## **Prayers of the People**

**Hymn #537** Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed (verses 1 and 2)

**1) Christian, rise and act your creed;  
let your prayer be in your deed;  
Seek the right, perform the true,  
raise your work and life anew.**

**2) Hearts around you sink with care,  
you can help their load to bear;  
You can bring inspiring light,  
strengthen them to do the right.**

## Pastoral Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer **Unison**

### Offering Invitation

In us giving back to life, we become inspired to witness to what's holy and good in life. Seen this way, this offering is an act of praise to God. It is through this offering that we honor God. And God's creation. Let us be generous in our praise to God.

### Offering and Dedication **Unison**

**Accept our offerings of praise in grateful thanksgiving for your presence in our lives and the many blessings you bestow upon us. Consecrate our offering, O God, that it may become bread to fill the emptiness and heal the brokenness of the lives in this community and beyond. And may we be reminded that our real life begins when we give with generous hearts to proclaim the gospel in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.**

### Benediction **Unison**

**Let's go forth from here filled with the bread of life. We will share that bread with those we meet so they may taste the bread that will never let them know hunger. May God's blessing be upon us. May Jesus' love attend to us. May the Holy Spirit sustain us until we meet again.**