

**Sunday September 5, 2021
Singing for Joy**

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

People: **We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another with gratitude.**

Leader: Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

People: **We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another graciously.**

Leader: Thanks be to God for new beginnings, for new opportunities to learn together!

People: **We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another today expectantly and with joy!**

Opening Prayer Unison

Open our hearts dear God that we can be taught your refreshing ways of being present to each other in ways that make a loving difference. Today we pray for peace in our hearts that we can see your miraculous presence at play in unexpected ways and circumstances. Amen.

Hymn #402: Song of Colors

Hymn Leader: Tom Gill

(Please see separate attachment for the score)

- 1) Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills in profusion are springing;
Sing of colors, of the birds that fly outside my window their canticles singing;
Sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope we recall;
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.

- 2) Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.
Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares, who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Rabbi, Teacher Jesus,
You who taught thousands
And yet were willing to learn from the least of these,
We confess that we pretend to know
When in truth we still wonder.

**People: Forgive our pretense,
That we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers,
To fresh ideas,
To one another,
To you.**

Leader: Vulnerable Christ,
You who lived in generous love,
We confess that we have closed ourselves off,
That we have seen so much suffering
That we stop looking
Rather than see and respond to those in need.

**People: Forgive our neglect
That we may care for one another
And follow in the example you set for us.
In your name we pray. Amen**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

We are all on the path into life's fullness. God forgives all who seek to grow, learn, and improve our ways of being a loving presence. Accept this as the grace of our loving God.

Passing of the Peace

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

Reading

Jan Derry

Isaiah 35:4-7a (NIV)

35:4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God ... and God will come and save you."

35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

35:6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

35:7a the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Special Music

Tom Gill

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:24-37 (NIV)

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and

touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Singing for Joy

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

“Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.”
Let us celebrate our blessings with generosity
as we collect the offering
for the work and worship of this congregation.

Offering and Dedication Unison

**Generous God, you have made rich and poor,
powerful and vulnerable alike in your image.
Bless the gifts we have gathered today
that we may use them to protect the afflicted
and bring greater justice to your world through the power of love. Amen.**

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Communion Prayer Unison

As we eat this meal together and as we drink this juice of life in each other's presence grant unto us an emerging, fulfilling, and redeeming sense of life calling. In this holy meal of communion, we feel the allure and enticement of fellowship enriching us and making us more able to serve you and your ends in life. With eternal gratitude we give you thanks. Amen.

Benediction Unison

**Disciples of our Christian faith, go now in great expectancy,
knowing that teachers can be found in every corner of creation.
God help us into our own teachable moments in humility and hope.**