**September 4, 2022**

**Labor Day Weekend**

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, all who labor and are weighed down with responsibility, uncertainty, and worry.

**People: We come, because the load we carry is heavier than we can bear alone.**

Leader: Come, all you who seek to relate work and worship, leisure and service, into a meaningful whole.

**People: We gather for spiritual renewal and practical challenge, for help in making choices and carrying out our commitments.**

Leader: Come, sinner and saint, with your hatreds and loves, your failures and successes, your sorrows and joys.

**People: We respond to the Spirit’s leading and open ourselves to receive God’s gracious gifts.**

**\*Hymn #516:** “O Grant Us, God, a Little Space”

\***A Litany of Labor**

Leader: Ruler of the heavens, who came to earth as a humble carpenter, hear our prayers this Labor Day weekend: We give thanks for the gift of work, which can help give meaning and purpose to our lives, and which can offer us a way to serve you.

**People: Companion of our labor, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all whose work is truly their calling, that they continue to find joy in their labor, and through their labor be drawn closer to you.

**People: Joy in our lives, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all whose work is not a joy, who work simply because they must, and who suffer boredom and exhaustion from jobs that do nothing to feed their spirits.

**People: Source of all meaning, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all whose work leads them into ethical conflicts, who struggle to do what is right in the midst of frustrating circumstances.

**People: Guide for our path, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all who are unemployed, who face daily the financial and personal anxieties that unemployment brings, who begin to wonder about their worth in the world.

**People: Savior in the stress, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all who are retired, those who enjoy retirement, those who have lost purpose in their lives, and those who struggle to make a faithful use of their days.

**People: Teacher of quietness, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We know, Gracious God, that our lives depend on the faithful labor of other workers, often those that are underpaid and overworked. Keep us aware of how our choices affect the labor of others. May all of our work be done in a way that brings you honor and glory. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**\*Passing the Peace** “Peace Like a River”, verse 1, using ending 2 page 478

**I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river,**

**I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**Reading from the Old Testament:** Psalm 139:1-6;13-18 Jan Derry

**Reading from the Gospel:** Matthew 11:28-30 Jan Derry

**Special Music** Susan Breon

**Time with Young Disciples**

**Sermon:** “Holy Work”

**\*Hymn #425:** “For the Fruit of All Creation”

**The Community at Prayer** *(Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord’s Prayer)*

**Prayer Response**

**Invitation to the Offering**

 *(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)*

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, we ask your blessing upon these tangible expressions of our joy and care. Renew in us a sense of our abundance in all times and a never-failing compassion for all who need hope, for we pray in the Spirit of Jesus Chris who is the source of hope and joy, of our gifts and our open hands. Amen.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

Luke, the evangelist, wrote of Christ that the crowds followed him and he welcomed them, spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured. But some grumbled and said of Jesus: “This one welcomes sinners and eats with them.” But Jesus said: “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me…and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest.”

**In company with saints and sinners in every time and beyond time, we come to this, God’s welcome table, to meet the Risen Christ who invites us here.**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us praise God together.

**Let us give God thanks and praise.**

**Prayer of Consecration**

Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that Christ may be present as we share this meal, that our eyes may be opened and that we may recognize him in our midst.

**Bless this bread and cup and bless us, that in the fullness of time every cup will be filled to overflowing, every table will be one of welcome, and every life will be filled with abundant love. Amen.**

**Words of Institution and Consecration**

**Sharing the Elements**

 *The wafers in the center of the bread plate are non-gluten but they are not Certified Gluten Free. The cups toward the center are filled with wine and the cups around the outer area are filled with a non-alcoholic beverage.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. By the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us with all whom Christ welcomes, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #76:** “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing

**\*Commissioning and Blessing**

\*Postlude