

**September 3, 2023**

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: The Christian life is not so much a destination as a journey. Even so, the worship of God is not to be found solely in the gathering of this people of faith nor in their acts of worship or faithful service.

**People: But true worship happens in those moments when we sense God's presence among us, and we respond in joy.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**\*Hymn #66: "O Day of Radiant Gladness"**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 12:9-21 Jan Derry

**Special Music** Ken Littlefield & family

**Time With Young Disciples**

**Unison Prayer**

**Dear God, you are the author and source of our lives. You spread before us many pathways in this world of wilderness, and we are free to choose our own path. In our process of choosing, Great Spirit, lend us guidance. In our moments of despair, encourage us and broaden our perspective. In our moments of failure, empower us with strength to try again. In our moments of victory, teach us humility. Send us your loving spirit, that we may be agents of care and concern. Open our ears that we may hear each other. Warm our hearts that we may care for one another and enlighten our minds, that we may be about the tasks you set before us. Amen.**

**Sermon: "Standards of Excellence"**

**\*Hymn #492: "I Would Be True"**

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

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

## 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

**Generous God, thank you for the seeding and inspiring generosity in us. May these gifts be a blessing to the ministry of this church. Multiply them and make us fruitful and faithful stewards of our time, talent, and treasure.**

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Invitation to the Table

Leader: Jesus said: I am the Bread of Life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**People: In the company of all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving Bread.**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. ... Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere saying:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty. The whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing of the Elements  
**(from the pew)**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #471: "What A Covenant"**

**\*Commissioning and Blessing**

**\*Postlude**