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GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pastor: We are hungry, Lord!

We come to church today with different types of hunger for You.

Congregation: All who hunger, gather gladly!²

Taste and see that God is good!

Pastor: Some of us have gathered, eager to feast at your table, because we are hungry.

Some of us have come because we know we should eat, even though we don't feel like it.

Congregation: All who hunger, gather gladly!

Taste and see that God is good!

Pastor: Some of us are ravenous.

And some of us have lost our appetite, and we don't even know why.

Congregation: All who hunger, gather gladly!

Taste and see that God is good!

Pastor: You, O Christ, invite all people to your table of grace -

Each of us – whether gathered or scattered.

Your arms are open, and they welcome us to come, just as we are.

Congregation: All who hunger, gather gladly!

Taste and see that God is good!

Pastor: As we settle in this morning, fill us with your presence,

so that today, when the worship service comes to a close, we can all say,

“That is exactly what I needed!”

Congregation: All who hunger, gather gladly!

Taste and see that God is good!

HYMN

All Who Hunger (Verse 1)

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CONFESSION³

Pastor: As God's beloved children, we are invited to come to our God with the fullness of our lives, to admit our love and our hate, to admit our faith and our fear. Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession, using the Prayer of Confession as printed in our bulletin...

All people: Holy and Gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will center us again. Help us to see you as our center, and to cling to the good that you create in the world. Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the world's hurt. Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness, that we will bear his love and truth to the world. We pray in his name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends, let us proclaim the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Let us greet the world as people made new in Christ. Amen.

¹ Penner, Carol. “A Hungry Call to Worship: February 7, 2013. (Adapted) <https://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/2013/02/a-hungry-call-to-worship.html> 27 July 2020.

² Dunstan, Silvia G. The congregational response is from lines in the hymn, “All Who Hunger.” Multiple resources provide this information about the author, Silvia Dunstan. “After a brief, arduous battle with liver cancer, Canadian Sylvia Dunstan died in 1993 at the age of 38. For thirteen years, Dunstan had served the United Church of Canada as a parish minister and prison chaplain. She is remembered by those who knew her for her passion for those in need, her gift of writing, and her love of liturgy.”

³ Neel, Beth. Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness. “Hold Fast to What is Good” <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/> 27 July 2020

HEBREW READING – Genesis 32:22-31 (NIV)

²²That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." ²⁹Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." ³¹The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)

¹³When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." ¹⁶Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. ¹⁸"Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Bair

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And, forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION⁴

Liturgist: When resources were short, did Christ worry?

Congregation: No! Christ saw the gifts, and Christ multiplied them!

Liturgist: This is the miracle we witness every time we have the opportunity to give to the work of Christ, through the church.

Congregation: God accepts what we offer, and God does powerful and transforming things with our offerings.

Liturgist: This past week alone, we witnessed how God used and multiplied the offerings of time and talent AND your monetary gifts and tithes. They were multiplied, when they were combined with the gifts and tithes of others. Together, many people were blessed as Christ's mission was accomplished – right here in our neighborhood – by way of the 12th Annual Servants Northeast Home Helps Work Camp. Many, many hours of free labor were given to complete work on over 20 homes and your financial gifts helped to feed a daily average of 50 volunteers. Everyone was provided 3 meals a day and homeowners were also blessed with a packed lunch and gathered on Friday evening for a celebration picnic. The meals you provided, did not only give physical nourishment but were a pathway for spirits and hearts to be nourished - as volunteers and homeowners came together to eat those simple meals. There, stories were told, tears were shared, laughter abounded, prayers were said, and friendships were built around Christ Jesus! Praise be to God for ministries of blessing, such as these! Praise be to God for joyful and faithful givers like

⁴ Douša, Rev. Kaji S. (adapted) Worship Ways: Pentecost 9: August 2. Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt th3 material for use in services of worship or church education. 28 July 2020.

you!

In THIS moment in our worship service, you are, once again, invited to give and participate in the MIRACLE of God's multiplying acts. Your financial gifts can be given in the form of a check or money order and mailed to the church via the US Postal Service or placed in the basket upon exiting the parking lot, or your financial gifts may be sent electronically. E-tithing forms are available upon request. As you consider your financial offering, consider too, recommitting yourselves to the giving of your time and talent for Christ's continuing work in the world. Maybe you'd like to teach a Sunday School class this year? Help lead a book or bible study? Sing in the choir or ring in the chime choir? Provide special music? Serve on one of our church committees or organize a particular mission or outreach project? The opportunities to share your gifts and the gift of yourself are many! Let us now, take a moment - in silence - to consider how God is calling us to service, and then, recommit ourselves and our gifts to God's work in the world...(Pause)

Please join me in offering the gift of very selves and our time, talent, and money to God, using the Offertory Prayer, as printed in our bulletins.

OFFERTORY PRAYER⁵

All people: With great joy, we present these tithes, gifts of time and talent, and the gift of our very selves, for your mission in the world, through the ministries of this church. Be with each of us as we commit ourselves to lives of joyful, thankful service. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HYMN

All Who Hunger (Verses 1 and 2)

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION INVITATION

Pastor: For Holy Communion this morning, I invite you to lend Christ your "table." Perhaps it *is* a table – one made of wood and you're actually sitting in a chair participating in worship, virtually. Or, perhaps this morning, your table is actually your lap as you sit on your bed, on a couch, or on the lawn or in your vehicle. Or, perhaps your table is similar to that of the people who gathered in today's Gospel reading – their table was a simple blanket on the ground, or just the grass or sand where they stood to hear Jesus preach. It doesn't matter to Christ, he only needs for you to lend him your "table."

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus used what he had on hand to feed hungry bellies and satisfy the spirits of the gathered community. Jesus, on that morning, lifted 5 loaves of bread and two fish to God in heaven, gave God thanks and gave it to the people. So, this morning, you are encouraged to lend Jesus whatever you have on hand – a few crackers, a slice of bread, a doughnut, a communion wafer, and a cup of juice, wine, coffee, or water. Jesus will use whatever you have on hand, bless it, and feed your belly and satisfy your spirit too.

Lend Christ your table, your bread, your cup, and your heart, for "the Lord has need of it."

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pastor: Though we are many throughout the earth, as the church community, whether we are gathered or scattered, we are still one in Christ.

Wherever you are – on the lawn, in your vehicles, in your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands, like this, lightly upon the elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

Pastor: Loving, welcoming, saving Jesus, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your children gather to

⁵ Townley, Nancy. Worship Connection: August 2, 2020. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/8302/worship-connection-august-2-2020>
24 June 2020.

worship that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: We remember how, on the night that the Lord Jesus was betrayed he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is broken for you. Take and eat. Remember me.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. It is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink this, remember me.”

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Pastor: Let us in our many places, around our many tables, receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven. Take and eat.

Pastor: Let us in our many places, around our many tables, receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing. Take and drink.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace,
rejoicing that, by the simplicity of our worship and sharing,
we have embodied the truth that Christ’s love
is not limited by buildings made with human hands,
nor contained in human ceremonies,
but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.
Please pray with me, repeating each line as an echo.

Pastor: Spirit of Christ, **(echo)**
you have blessed our tables and our lives. **(echo)**
May the eating of this Bread **(echo)**
give us courage to speak faith **(echo)**
and act love, **(echo)**
not only in church buildings, **(echo)**
but in your precious world, **(echo)**
and may the drinking of this Cup **(echo)**
renew our hope **(echo)**
even in the midst of pandemic and misinformation, **(echo)**
even in the midst of hatred and violence, **(echo)**
wrap your hopeful presence around all **(echo)**
whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, **(echo)**
and let us, who call ourselves “Christian” **(echo)**
become your compassion and safe refuge. **(echo)**
Amen. **(echo)**

HYMN

All Who Hunger (ALL 3 Verses)

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BENEDICTION⁶

Pastor: The Spirit sends us forth to serve.
As you have been loved – love.
As you have been welcomed – welcome.

⁶ Canadian Foodgrains Bank. “Words for Worship: Benediction: As You Have Been Loved” www.foodgrainsbank.ca 28 June 2020.

As you have been fed – feed.
As you have received – give.
And now, may the boundless love of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
be always with you.

All people:

Amen.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

1. All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
 2. All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3. All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
 Come from lone-li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.