

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: *Bountiful God, all that we can offer you stems from your generosity. May the gifts that we return to you become a blessing for your whole community, enriching and empowering us for the work to which you call us. Amen.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN *They'll Know We are Christians by our Love* Chalice #494

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Holy One show us the way to *Do Unto Others* with **LOVE**. May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of love. May the Spirit show forth through you in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the power to achieve. And may you know the peace that surpasses all understanding especially when it is difficult to understand. And the people said:

All people: **AMEN and AMEN!**
All SING: *We will tear down the walls.
We will tear down every wall.
God has called us one and all;
Christ has broken down the wall,
Christ has broken down the wall.*

POSTLUDE **Mr. Kevin Crone**

Resources

- Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License: #A-733911. All music printed or posted on PowerPoint with permission: CCLI #1528365
- This Worship Series is a collaboration between Worship Design Studio and Church of the Resurrection with their Campaign for Kindness. All material purchased by Pastor Laura Baker and is being used with permission.

September 15, 2024
DINNER CHURCH
Malice Toward None: LOVE

PREWORSHIP MUSIC
GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING

Mr. Kevin Crone
Rev. Laura Baker

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: As this series draws to a close, we may feel more or less resolved in our openness to each other. Loving our neighbors—including relatives, coworkers, acquaintances, strangers—as ourselves is no simple task. We need God. We need the love of God to show us mercy and strength to love as God loves. We need the story of Jesus—the one who loved across the lines that had been drawn in the society of his day but who also stood up for the least and the lost. We need faith that no matter the strain of differing positions, policies, and politics, we will move forward in love. Disagreeing need not be antithetical to love and grace. And indeed, our world depends on all of us working for a better world filled with more kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love. Let us sing now, in one voice, as the Christ candle is lighted.

All SING: *Christ has broken down the wall. Christ has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one. Christ has broken down the wall.*

Pastor: The act of simply coming together in “revolutionary,” which in its earliest form meant “finding a course around a central point.” We gather with the Light of Christ as the center and guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. “This is our love revolution.” Let us pray, then sing in a unified voice.

All people: *Loving and Hope-filled God, we ask you to stay close in our lives as we move into an unknown future. Wrap us in your love, and invite us to go and do likewise—to “do unto others” in ways that build up your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds, and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. Amen.*

All SING: *We’re accepted as we are. We’re accepted as we are.
Through God’s powers, all is reconciled. We’re accepted as we are.
Cast aside our doubts and fears. Cast aside our doubts and fears.
Peace and love freely offered here. Cast aside our doubts and fears.*

PEACE ACROSS THE DIVIDE

Member 1: It has been an eye-opening experience to be here.
Member 2: In the end, I'm still not sure I'm capable of moving closer.
Member 1: What if that never happens?
Member 2: What if the chasm gets wider?
Member 1: But...I have begun to imagine a way to live together.
Member 2: I know we are both still afraid, but I wish you no harm.

Pastor: YES!
Congregation: BREATHE.
Pastor: Let us imagine this kind of outcome.
Congregation: Breathe again.
Pastor: We are NOT alone.
Congregation: Christ is with us and in us.
Pastor: Let us take a deep breath together.

All people: *(Deeply breath in and slowly exhale.)*

Pastor: The rhythm of our breath and heartbeat is the same. Our desire for life and love is the same. Our desire for a peace in which we flourish is the same. Let this moment permeate our souls and let us pass the peace of Christ between us. This peace is meant for all people. The peace of Christ be with you.

All people: *And also with you.*

(Please stand in spirit and/or body)

HYMN *Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us* **Chalice #231**

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

FOCUS SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 22:33-40**

ANTHEM *Lord, My God, A Wonder Fills My Heart & Soul* **Chancel Choir**

HOMILY **Rev. Laura Baker**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: In this series, we have searched for the alternative narratives of Jesus' ministry that moved people to a different way of relating. Our response to the invitation of Christ to be his Body in the world is to make these alternative sacred narratives more real in our own lives for the sake of the

world. We come to prayer today as those whom God loves deeply, despite our flaws and sometimes failed attempts at loving others. We come knowing that without the capacity to love, we are without capacity to hope; we are without capacity to survive in this world. Our frailty requires heroic acts of connection that we sometimes believe are beyond our ability to achieve. And perhaps it is beyond us... but not beyond God. And so we pray together the prayers of the people, for we are all in need of help. We pray for your guidance,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for the ability to hope against hopelessness,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for the spiritual capacity for love,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for mercy when we fail,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: Holy, Loving, God of us all...

We pray all these things through Christ, who taught us to pray:

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. 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 INVITATION

Liturgist: God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, we offer our lives back to God — we share our time, our skills, our money and in so doing, we say "yes" to God's invitation to join in Christ's Kin-dom building work here on earth. Let us dedicate all we offer with a song and prayer.

(Please stand in spirit and/or body)

DOXOLOGY **Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Help us to work together well, offering our humble service now.

Follow Jesus. Praise the Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!