
~2023 WEST BEND FARMERS MARKET~

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OFFERINGS~

***DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose
power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we dedicate our tithes and offerings,
we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good
news of your kingdom will spring forth. Move us, we pray, beyond seeing our role as
passive or powerless, depending totally on the quality of the seed and the expertise of
the planter. Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating for
the world your love, grace, and power as we bear fruit that eases the suffering sick,
feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those
who feel disconnected or forgotten. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Matt 13:1-9, 18-23)

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Spirit Song” UMH 347

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

L: Like a rock,	P: God is under our feet.
L: Like a roof,	P: God is over our heads.
L: Like the horizon,	P: God is beyond us.
L: Like water in a pitcher;	P: God is within us and in the pouring out of us.
L: Like a pebble in the sea,	P: We are in God.
L: God hold you fast, bless you for service, and strengthen your witness. All: Amen.	

Pastor: Beloved, remember you are dirt. May you go forth and receive the Gardener’s tending
so that we may all become good soil ready to receive, nurture, and grow the seed of the gospel
wherever we go. Amen.

***POSTLUDE:** “Sortie” Nicholas Jacques Lemmens

**Please join us for continued Fellowship
during our Coffee Hour.**



**FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



323 South 5th Avenue
West Bend WI 53095

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
July 16, 2023

Doug Fitzgerald, Liturgist
Deanna Gibeau, Organist
Michelle Harrington, Singer
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE
Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC
Whether you’re just beginning to explore
your faith or have been following Christ
for years, you and your whole family can
belong at Fifth Ave. UMC

***Note: L: denotes worship “Leader” ~
P: denotes “People”**

~GATHERING GOD’S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE: “Andante Tranquillo” F. Mendelssohn

~WELCOME & CENTERING~

GREETING:

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-339-7673;
Email -rev.cmartinelli6@gmail.com

CENTERING MUSIC: “Peacefully” S. Scott

***INVOCATION:**

L: Holy One, you know us already. Help us to know you better. Let us see you all around us. Fill our worship with your Spirit so that we may recognize your presence in all places.
Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Come, let us worship God!
P: Come, let us worship our Creator!
L: God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth.
P: We are the soil the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God’s life-giving love.
L: God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.
P: We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener’s love and grace to transform us into good soil.
L: God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.
P: May we nurture and grow God’s new reality, bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God’s creation. Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Responsively)**

L: Loving God, we thank you for the ministry of this church. We remember the light this church has been in the neighborhood. The Youth Group, the mission projects, the Farmers Market, the concerts that have brought life and liveliness to our community.
P: Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you have done among us.

L: We thank you for the gift we have been to one another. We remember the Sunday school teachers, mentors, the Bible study and book study facilitators, Christian leaders and pastors who shaped us and formed us in Christian love. We recall the saints who have gone before yet whose care and influence are still so present.
P: Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you have done among us.

L: We thank you for your provision that never runs out. We notice that our community has so much need, and we trust that you will provide the way for us to meet those needs when we follow your voice.
P: Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you are doing among us.

L: We thank you for the gifts you are nurturing among us now. We notice the Spirit at work among your people, bringing forth gifts of compassion, justice, cooking, caring for children, really excellent hugs, welcoming, hospitality and kind, encouraging words. We are learning to celebrate the gifts we have rather than despair of the gifts we think we ought to have.

P: Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you are doing among us.

L: We thank you for the dreams you give us, dreams of a new reality where all people can thrive as a community brought together in love. We welcome your invitation to imagine how God-given abundance could transform our Beloved Community.
P: Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you will do among us.

L: We thank you for the ways you guide us into new expressions of your love in the world. *We grieve for the ideas and ministries that gave life in the past that we now set aside to make room for new imaginings to take root.* We rejoice that you continue to journey with us as we imagine a new reality into being, because nothing is impossible with God.
P: Gracious God, we give you thanks for all you will do among us.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:**

L: Listen to this Word: “Where sin abounds, love much more abounds.” Receive from such abundance and give thanks. You, my siblings, are among the richest people in the world. You have the wealth of Christ with you always, even to the end of time.
P: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN:** **“Hymn of Promise”** **UMH**
707

~WE PROCLAIM~

*** Matthew 13:18-23 (CEV)**

All: Now listen to the meaning of the story about the farmer: The seeds that fell along the road are the people who hear the message about the kingdom, but don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches the message from their hearts. The seeds that fell on rocky ground are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it at once. But they don't have deep roots, and they don't last very long. As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them in trouble, they give up.

The seeds that fell among the thornbushes are also people who hear the message. But they start worrying about the needs of this life and are fooled by the desire to get rich. So, the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything. The seeds that fell on good ground are the people who hear and understand the message. They produce as much as 100 or 60 or 30 times what was planted.
L: The Word of God for the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

~THE GREAT SOWER COMMUNION~

Pastor: At every Eucharist, the bread and wine are offered to the “Lord, God of all creation!” To our God we offer bread and wine, the “fruit of the earth and work of human hands.” God transforms these offerings into something far greater and gives it back to us as the real presence of Christ. In this sense, every Eucharist (Holy Communion) is a celebration of the generosity of God. It celebrates the connectedness of heaven, earth, and every creature. As we enter into communion with the living God, may it also make us generous people who treat God’s creation with reverence, and indeed bear great fruit.

- L: The Lord be with you.
- P: And also, with you.
- L: Lift up your hearts.
- P: We lift them to the Lord.
- L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: The Sower comes a sowing the Gospel in the land. With grace God rains the Spirit to help the seed to grow. For the dark of winter is over and the sun begins to shine, Christ has conquered death forever and life begins anew. In hope, the Word is planted like seed upon the ground and roots within our hearts so that faith will start to live.

Hold fast to this great gift and the giver who brings life, because the weeds surround us and rocks impede our way. It is easy to grow tired, get discouraged, lose our hope but, the God who claims and names us stands firmly at our side. Hold fast then to this promise that comes to us from Christ; not death nor life nor powers can take us from our God.

Holy, mighty Creator God, you reached into the depths of chaos and flung out the stars and planets. Working in the dirt and clay, you formed man and woman in your own image. You gave the stewardship and care of the wondrous earth and all it contains into the hands of humanity. When we failed, out of great love, you took your only begotten Son and gave Him to the world that all people may know Christ. Out of death, you have brought forth new life.

Pastor: Baptized into Christ's Spirit we have received the Word. We live our lives in witness to God who gives us life. We are nourished and forgiven, called by God into the fields for holy work to harvest the bounty that is planted. Here gathered into Christ's body sow your seeds of hope deep in our hearts that we may be sent forth into all nations to bear the Word of God as

witnesses for Jesus Christ and in the power of God’s promise of new life. In this holy meal we remember Jesus, His promises, and the price He paid for who He was, what He said, and what He did.

On the night before Jesus died, He took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, “Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.” After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured the wine, saying, “This is the new covenant, remember me.”

We do remember. We remember Jesus’ life of love, His friendship, His teaching, His dying, and His rising to life again. In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died; Christ will arise; Christ will come to us again.

Bless this bread and this cup, the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest, the seed, and the Sower. So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community, we may taste and see your goodness, so that we might catch a glimpse of what it is to be in communion with you and with one another.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now, and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

All: Most loving God, please open the furrows of our lives to receive again the seeds of your Gospel. Rain your mercy upon us, shine your warmth and light into every dark place, and bring forth in us not the harvest we deserve but the harvest that in your glorious love you have destined for us. Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!