



## FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue  
West Bend WI 53095

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**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
October 1, 2023

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Sandy Blumenberg, Liturgist  
Deanna Gibeau, Organist  
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"**

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### ~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

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**PRELUDE:**

**"Largo"**

**Karl Schulz**

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### ~WELCOME & CENTERING~

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**GREETING:**

Pastor. When I think of World Communion Sunday, I get excited about the fact that hundreds of thousands of Christian brothers and sisters around the world are coming to the Lord's Table to remember our Lord and to proclaim His final victory to the world. It doesn't matter what part of the world we're hailing from, because from God's perspective there are no political, ethnic, cultural, or national boundaries. From God's perspective we are One people, the People of God! Come. Let us break bread and worship together.

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**CENTERING MUSIC:**

**“All I Need Is You”**

**Dan Adler**

**\*INVOCATION:**

Leader: God takes broken promises and turns them into vows of faithfulness. God takes our biggest failings and shapes lives of service. God listens to our prayers of confession and changes them into songs of mercy. Let us come to the One who pours forgiveness into our lives. **Amen.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)**

L: We are God's work of art—each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight.

**P: We are God's handiwork—woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.**

L: We are the church of Jesus Christ—diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

**P: We are the Body of Christ—living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, throughout the world he loved so much.**

L: We are here to be reminded once more who we are, whose we are and what our lives are about.

**All: We are here to be uplifted, renewed, and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working in and among us. *We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new.***

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION:**

L: Great indeed is the faithfulness of God, and yet our hearts are not so reliable. We wander. We argue. We forget. We divide ourselves with anger and bitterness and falsehood. Let's try to come back together again, and let's start with the truth. Let's confess our sins, to God, and also, to each other.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)**

If we were to name all the gods we have before you, Rock of Redemption, we would be here for a very long time. We elevate politicians, celebrities, and even ordinary people into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much during the uncertain and terrifying days, we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy being worried and fearful, we do not notice how Creation witnesses to your goodness and grace.

Forgive us, God our Hope. Even in our uncertainty, may we trust that your love never abandons us. Even in our fears, may we know that your presence never leaves our side. Even when our faith falters, may we know that your grace is the most valuable gift we have, and we can open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

L: Even when our cups run dry, God's grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, God's generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, God's love overflows. Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things, and by the abundance of God's grace, and by the

power of God's love, your sins have been forgiven. Go in peace. **Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:**                      **“Let Us Break Bread Together”**                      **UMH 618**

**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

L: Almighty God, give us ears to hear your story in these words of Scripture; give us eyes to see your story in the faces of those that surround us; and give us faith enough, that by your grace, we might serve you until the end of our days. **Amen.**

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**~WE PROCLAIM~**

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**\*Philippians 2:1-11—The Christ Hymn**

L: Like morning dew, like manna, fine as frost, may your word now cleanse and nourish us, O God.

All: Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: The Word of God for the People of God.                      **P: Thanks be to God.**

**CHANCEL CHOIR:**                      **“I Was Glad”**  
Joseph Martin  
Dave Bertelsen, Director

**SERMON:**                      **“World Communion Sunday”**                      **Pastor Clarissa**

**SERMONIC HYMN:**                      **“Surely the Presence of the Lord” x2**                      **UMH 328**

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**~WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY~**

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Pastor: This table is for all of us, near and far, high, and low, east and west and north and south. This table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It's not a Methodist table. It's not an American table. It's

God's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace. So come and take your place at the table. You are welcome, you are invited, you are called: come, let us share this meal together.

L: We gather around the Table in places far and near; eating sourdough, rye, tortillas, crackers, wafers, and Wonderbread—

**All: The body of Christ.**

L: Drinking the wine or the juice from handmade chalices and silver goblets, golden spoons and little mini cups—

**All: The blood of Christ.**

L: The bread and the cup unite us with all who would follow Jesus. This meal reaches back through the centuries. This table reaches around the world.

**All: Let us eat and drink with joy.**

L: Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity. Christ has gathered His people around the earth to commune at this table. Across political lines and economic lines, in places of powerfully protected affluence, and among the poorest of the poor, we share a meal, remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible.

Pastor: And so, come; come with your doubts, come with your hopes, come with your inadequacies and with your strengths. Come, for this is a table where all are invited, and all are welcome. Grace us with your presence as we quietly and loudly pray to you.

L: May we see in each other your light, your love and you. May it not matter our differences, our names, our languages, our looks, and our way of doing things. May what matter today and everyday be that we are one in you.

L: And as we pray, we call to mind our brothers and sisters who are unable to be with us today whether in body or spirit. May you bring comfort to those who are grieving, lonely, heartbroken, ill, or broken of spirit.

Pastor: Grain is gathered from the field; threshed and milled for flour.

**People: We are formed from the grain of God's harvest.**

Pastor: Flour is mixed with water to produce basic dough.

**People: The water of baptism unites us.**

Pastor: Yeast is added to transform the mixture.

**People: The vision of God's realm draws us onwards.**

Pastor: Oil softens the dough and makes a new texture.

**People: The Holy Spirit anoints us as the body of Christ.**

Pastor: A little salt improves the taste.

**People: Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth.**

Pastor: The bread is kneaded and shaped, molded and baked.

**People: It is God who makes us a holy communion.**

Pastor: Grapes are harvested and crushed for juice.

**People: You are the vine, we are the branches, O Christ.**

Pastor: Juice and skins are mixed with yeast for fermentation.

**People: God's reign is coming. God's hope is here.**

Pastor: There is a time of waiting; then a time of pressing.

**People: God's new life presses forth through the sediment of our lives.**

Pastor: And finally, the feast is here!

**People: Let us celebrate the feast of our life in God.**

Pastor: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

May this time we partake of the body and blood of Jesus unite us in the community of saints who know your love and proclaim your Son with fervor and grace to a broken and hurting world. May your healing hands be the salve for ending hurt and violence in this world, even as we prepare for the next.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (Unison)**

**All: Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of saint's witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace. Amen.**

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### **~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~**

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Pastor: God of all goodness:

**People: hear our prayer.**

*Pastor:* God of all nations, we give You thanks that we are all made in Your image, with such rich diversity. On this day we are in solidarity with the faithful around the world. As we break bread together, we remember that we are still one body in You, even though we have different languages, cultures and traditions, different ways of worship, praying and praising. In solidarity we drink the cup together of hope, of new life, knowing that Your will is for Your people to be one body. We are one body, but we are not the same—it is through the gift of diversity that we are able to be Your body. We thank You and praise You for making us all who we are, individually and collectively. We

each celebrate our own ancestry, culture and ethnicity, and we pray to You now as You taught us...

**All: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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**~2023 WEST BEND FARMERS MARKET~**

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

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**\*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: (unison)**

We approach the table today, but we don't approach it alone. We approach it on this World Communion Sunday with Christians around the world, in congregations large and small, speaking every language and one language. And so, part of our approach this morning is to remember in our offering our connection to the work of the church in every corner of God's creation. We do this using the PC(USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering, which goes to support advocacy, education, and educational outreach with communities of faith all across the globe. Truly, God has blessed us with the rich, varied, and abundant gifts of creation. From God's abundance, let us also give abundantly.

**\*CLOSING HYMN:                           “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” x2                           UMH 334**

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**~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~**

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L: May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us; may the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us; and may the blessing of the Spirit who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with us from now into eternity. **Amen.**

Pastor: We have sung, we have prayed, we have worshiped together. Now we go back out into the world. We came together to build relationships, relationships with each other, and our relationship with Jesus. We go out as people who are strengthened by our connections; ready to love and to serve. Ready to carry God's love to the world. As you journey through the ups and the downs of the coming week, let us remember that God, who has invited us into relationship, is always with us. Go with God, as the people of God. So be it! Amen

**\*POSTLUDE:**

**“Praise to Thee”**

**Fintlan Walker**

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