

October 2, 2022
 Worship Series: Love Your Neighbor
 Message: Testify to Love
 World Communion Sunday

Prelude *Just as I Am, I Come* Chancel Choir

Welcome/Announcements Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

*Call to Worship

Pastor: Around the world, people gather to share the bread and the cup.

People: We gather around God's Table with people far and near.

Pastor: Come to the Table of the Lord.

People: We come, united in Christ's love.

*Hymn *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling* UMH 384

*Opening Prayer Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: Lord, throughout the world today,
 Christians are sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion.**

**We come together with a bountiful table
 set in the midst of a world often filled with struggle and strife.**

**Help us to receive the elements of bread and wine
 for the nourishment of our souls**

and for the strengthening of our witness to Your love for us.

In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Children's Message Linda Biscardo

Prayers of the People Sarah Chambers

Offering *Ubi Caritas* Chancel Choir

*Doxology UMH 95

**Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow!
 Praise Him all creatures here below!
 Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts!
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! AMEN**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:35-38; 22:36-40

Jordan Biscardo

Message

Testify to Love

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Invitation to Communion

Sarah Chambers

Prayer of Confession

**People: Merciful and forgiving God,
we need a spirit of love and acceptance to flood into our lives this day.
Even though we celebrate World Communion Sunday,
we recognize our world is often filled
with anger, resentment, division, strife, and pain.
We act out of frustration rather than love.
We hoard Your gifts and only grudgingly share our bounty with others.
We find ways to turn our backs on You,
claiming that other things are more important than our faith.
But You, Lord, reach out to us—calling us back to You.
Remind us again that Your love has always and will always be with us.
You have called us to be witnesses to the good things
that can happen when we follow Your ways.
You have asked us to reach out,
across our divisions and fears, to others
with the reconciling love of Your Son Jesus Christ.
Heal us from our selfishness and our apathy.
Give us courage and strength to follow Your path of love.
For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

Assurance and Pardon

Leader: From the beginning of all creation, God's word was love.

That love has been lavished upon you, not because you did anything to earn it, but because it is God's great gift to you. Live in that love—testify to that love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Alleluia! AMEN.

The Great Thanksgiving**UMH 13**

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing . . .

And so, we Your people on earth

and with all the company of heaven

praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.****Hosanna in the highest.****Blessed is he who comes****in the name of the Lord.****Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are You . . . And so, in remembrance
of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

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 who trespass 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.****Breaking of the Bread**

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer Following Communion

Eternal God,

**we give You thanks for this holy mystery
in which You have given Yourself to us.**

Grant that we may go into the world

in the strength of Your Spirit,

to give ourselves to others

in the name our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

*Hymn

Your Love, O God

UMH 120

Benediction

Postlude

His Name is Wonderful

June Shuffett