

February 5, 2023  
 Worship Series: Imagine  
 Message: Better Church

Gathering *10,000 Reasons*  
*How Great is Our God*

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Centering Moment

*Pastor: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. Jesus in His great imagination imagined the church as the people of God continuing his mission in the world. Imagine--Imagine God working in and through us---Imagine all that we can be and do through Jesus.*

\*Centering Song *One Day*

\*Prayer Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: Holy God,  
 You have called us to be Your Church  
 in this time and place.  
 Renew us and empower us  
 to live out our mission,  
 building a community of Christ's love  
 to serve the world. AMEN.**

Children's Moment Sarah Chambers

Prayers of People Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Offering Song *Mighty to Save*

Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

New Testament Reading Acts 2:42-47 Sandy Ross

Message

*Better Church*

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Invitation to Communion

Sarah Chambers

Prayer of Confession

**People: Almighty God, we thank You for the inspiration of Jesus.  
Through Him, You call us to be Your people,  
bolding sharing His vision of love with the world.  
But, we confess that we hold back the force of Your Spirit among us.  
We do not listen for Your word of grace,  
speak the good news of Your love,  
or live as a people made one in Christ.**

**Have mercy on us, O God.  
Open us to Your possibilities,  
and enable us to imagine the church as You call us to be.  
Transform our timid lives by the power of Your Spirit,  
and fill us with a desire to be Your faithful people,  
doing Your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

Assurance and Pardon

Leader: Through the power of the Holy Spirit within us,  
God is able to accomplish abundantly far more  
than all we can ask or imagine.  
So, hear and believe the good news.  
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.**

\*Closing Song

*Walk By Faith*

\*Benediction

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Postlude

*One Day (Reprise)*