

## Living Table United Church of Christ

September 6, 2020 • Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

### **Gathering Song**

"No Matter" vs. 1, 2, & 4

*Refrain:* No matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are on the journey of life:  
you're welcome, welcome in this place.

No matter who, no matter what, no matter where you are on the journey of life:  
accepted, welcomed by God's grace.

1. For we are family, meant to be purpose for eternity.  
Born in love, from above, God's community.

### *Refrain*

2. And in diversity, unity, harmony for all to see:  
Justice and equity, God's community.

### *Refrain*

4. The God who spoke through Christ, speaks to us; Listen to our Maker's call.  
Welcome home, welcome in, welcome one and all.

### **Gathering Words**

One: God, who blesses us with many gifts, calls us together,

**All: with our different gifts, our different ideas, our different tastes.**

One: God calls us together,

**All: to share what makes us special, to build each other up, to serve each other in love.**

One: God calls us together,

**All: knowing that we need all parts of the body if we are to be whole.**

One: God calls us together,

**All: to sing, to pray, to listen, to speak; to be refreshed for continued service with all our neighbors.**

### **Gathering Prayer**

God of Jubilee, God of freedom from oppression and healing for the afflicted,  
we gather to share your Good News. We gather to be transformed as the world is  
changed. In this time of worship, may we be fed in body and soul. As we sing and pray, as  
we break the bread and drink the cup, may your Spirit refresh and empower each of us.  
And when our time of worship is ended, send us back out into the world to live the Good  
News. Amen.

### **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Acknowledging Our Need for God**

One: God, you have given each of us many gifts,

**All: but sometimes we cannot recognize what gift we have to share,  
so we hide it under a bushel of fear.**

One: God, you remind us that all gifts are needed,

**All: but sometimes we let ourselves be convinced that some gifts are more special than others, and then leave our gifts unused.**

One: God, you call us to work, to live, to love together as parts of one body,

**All: but sometimes we decide that membership in the body is limited by our understandings.**

One: God, for the times we have ignored or mislabeled or misused your gifts,

**All: for those times we have cut another off from the body, we offer words of repentance and ask for forgiveness and grace.**

### *Moments of Silent Reflection*

#### ***Words of Promise***

One: God is the giver of MANY gifts.

**All: God is the Creator of the ONE body.**

One: God is slow to anger and quick to forgive.

**All: God helps us to share and honor the gifts of all,**

One: God helps us to heal the wounds and reunite the body.

**All: We are forgiven, loved, and accepted. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen**

#### ***Sharing the Peace***

#### ***Song of Centering***

“If We Are the Body”

It's crowded in worship today

As she slips in trying to fade into the faces The girls' teasing laughter is carrying

Farther than they know, farther than they know

*Refrain:* But if we are the body Why aren't our arms reaching?

Why aren't our hands healing? Why aren't our words teaching?

And if we are the body Why aren't our feet going?

Why is our love not showing them there is a way? There is a way.

A traveler is far away from home

He sheds his coat and quietly sinks into the back row The weight of their judgmental glances

Tells him that his chances are better out on the road

#### *Refrain*

Jesus payed much too high a price

For us to pick and choose who should come And we are the body of Christ

#### *Refrain*

#### ***Children's Sermon***

#### ***Thoughts of the People***

Alice Wong

Disabled people know what it means to be vulnerable and interdependent. We are modern-day oracles. It's time people listened to us... So many people see me and presume that I have

a poor quality of life because I have a tube attached to my face and that I sound different. I refuse to allow the medical industrial complex reduce me to my comorbidities, risk factors, and inability to perform X number of activities of daily living.

I find strength and hope from communities organizing mutual aid and providing care for one another. I call upon the power and wisdom of my disabled ancestors such as Carrie Ann Lucas, Stella Young, Ki'tay Davidson, Laura Hershey, Ing Wong-Ward, and Harriet McBryde Johnson. I think about them often and know their light will show me the way forward.

### ***Sacred Reading***

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

### ***Message***

Power and Privilege in the Bible and in Our Lives:  
The Body of Christ and Alice Wong  
Rev. Laura Beth Gatzke

### ***Song of Reflection***

“I Need You to Survive”

I need you, you need me. We're all a part of God's body,  
stand with me, come be with me, we're all a part of God's body.

It is God's will, that ev'ry need be supplied, you are important to me, I need you to survive,  
you are important to me, I need you to survive. *(Repeat)*

I'll pray for you, you pray for me. I love you, I need you to survive,

I won't harm you with words from my mouth. I love you, I need you to survive. *(Repeat)*

### ***Prayers of the People***

#### ***Pastoral Prayer***

***Prayer of Jesus***

One: Our Father

**All: Our Mother**

One: Who art in heaven

**All: Who are in all the earth**

One: Hallowed be thy name

**All: Holy is your truth**

One: Thy kindom come

**All: May your wisdom come**

One: Thy will be done, on earth

**All: Your circle be one, uniting**

One: as it is in heaven

**All: heaven and earth**

One: Give us this day our daily bread

**All: Give us today a nurturing spirit**

One: And forgive us our trespasses

**All: Heal through us**

One: as we forgive those who trespass against us

**All: as we ourselves are healed**

One: Lead us not into temptation

**All: Lead us into Fullness of life**

One: But deliver us from evil

**All: And liberate all that is good**

One: For thine is the Kindom,

**All: For the Wisdom,**

One: the power and the glory

**All: Presence and the Goodness are Yours**

**Now and forever**

**Amen.**

***Offering***

***Offertory***

***Presentation of Gifts***

“Good Soil”

God, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

God, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. God, let my heart, God, let my heart,

God, let my heart be good soil.

***Prayer of Dedication***

### *The Great Thanksgiving*

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts, people of God.

**All: We lift them up to God so they might be filled with a new spirit.**

One: Let us give thanks to God who loves us.

**All: May our willing spirits offer praises to the One who sustains us.**

One: Our greatest joy is to offer you our thanks and praise, (...)  
singing to the glory of your name:

### *Song of Praise*

“Sanctus” (Psallite Mass)

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

### *We Remember*

One: As we gather at your table, (...) When it came time for the bread, he blessed it, broke it, and offered it to them saying, “Take and eat. This is my body, broken for you.”

**All: When we eat this bread, we are made whole and reminded of our call to bring healing in the midst of brokenness.**

One: After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup and held it out to them saying, “Take and drink, for this is the cup of the New Covenant poured out for your forgiveness.”

**All: When we drink this cup, we are set free and reminded of our call to bring liberation and justice to those devalued in our communities and in our world.**

One: Let us pray.

**All: Holy God of Truth, though we come to your table as many, may your Holy Spirit make us one body and one spirit. As you feed us with the bread of life, may we feed those who know true hunger. As we drink from your cup, may we become a beacon of hope to the oppressed, the powerless, and the forgotten. As you have nourished us with mercy and healing, may we seek to restore wholeness in all the broken and shattered places of the world. Amen.**

### *Sharing the Elements*

#### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

God of forgiveness and grace, we thank you for welcoming us at your table. As we have shared the bread of life and the cup of liberation and renewed our covenant with you, may we find the courage to live lives of mercy and be agents of healing for all whom we meet. Amen.

#### *Communion Song*

“The Gift of Love”

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love; my words are vain, As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2. Though I may give all I possess, And striving so my love profess,

But not be given by love within, The profit soon turns strangely thin.

3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed.

### ***Words of Sending Forth***

One: We are the body of Christ.

**All: We will cultivate in ourselves the heart of Christ, tender for mercy.**

One: Let us also seek to have the eyes of Christ

**All: to see a world in need.**

One: Let us also understand ourselves as having the feet of Christ

**All: to bring good news to all.**

### ***Song of Sending***

“Carry the Light”

We have all witnessed Your presence. We have received Your grace.

We give You honor and glory For moving in this place.

Now we go out to share the Good News.

Now we go out to share Your love.

Now we go out to share the Good News.

Now we go out to share Your love.

*Refrain:* Carry the light! Carry the light! Carry the light to all the earth!

Carry the light! Carry the light! Carry the light to all the earth!

We have all witnessed Your presence. We have received Your grace.

We give You honor and glory For moving in this place.

Now we go out to share the Good News.

Now we go out to share Your love.

Now we go out to share the Good News.

Now we go out to share Your love.

*Refrain*

### ***Benediction***

#### **Contact Us**

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