



*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark,  
Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

**Harmony United Methodist Church  
February 14, 2021  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

GATHERING MUSIC  
WELCOME  
PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

How good it is to sing praises to our God, for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

**Praise the LORD!**

God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. God determines the number of the stars; God gives to all of them their names.

**Praise the LORD!**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; God's understanding is beyond measure.

**Praise the LORD!**

HYMN

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

UMH 496

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
that calls me from a world of care,  
and bids me at my Father's throne  
make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
my soul has often found relief,  
and oft escaped the tempter's snare  
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of  
prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
of those whose anxious spirits burn  
with strong desires for thy return!  
With such I hasten to the place  
where God my Savior shows his face,  
and gladly take my station there,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
thy wings shall my petition bear  
to him whose truth and faithfulness  
engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since he bids me seek his face,  
believe his word, and trust his grace,  
I'll cast on him my every care,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

## PRAYER

Our prayer to you this day is for peace and healing. We see the conflicts that surround us every day, nearby and far, and we seek to be a more peaceful people. We ask you to help us find ways to spread your peace. We also come today, aware of how much healing needs to take place in us and in those we love, as well as in those we have never met. We seek to follow Christ's example and we seek to have you use us as your healers. Help us find ways to bring peace and healing to this world, as Jesus has taught us to do. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jessica Randall

## MORNING PRAYER

Pastor Debra

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:27-31

### **The Lord Renews Our Strength**

<sup>27</sup> Why do you complain, Jacob?

Why do you say, Israel,

"My way is hidden from the Lord;  
my cause is disregarded by my God"?

<sup>28</sup> Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.

<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;

<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

**Jesus Heals Many**

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

**Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place**

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

## SERMON

Pastor Debra

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*The Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version)*

***"Let us affirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed."***

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;\*  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\*\* church,  
the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Debra

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Debra

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor Debra

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**Glory to God! Amen!**

HYMN

*One Bread, One Body*

UMH 620

**Refrain:**

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.*

*Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
Woman or man, no more. **Refrain**  
Many the gifts, many the works, one in the  
Lord of all. **Refrain**  
Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one, for all. **Refrain***

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Debra

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,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,  
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.  
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we 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 blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,  
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners.  
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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."

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.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

#### 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.**

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Debra

Day after day after day you give yourself to us: in two or more gathered in your name, in connection across the miles, and in bread and wine. As we go from this worship, may we feel restored to your body, companioned by your people, and sustained by the power of your Spirit as we witness to your healing and reconciling work. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

#### CLOSING HYMN

#### *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

UMH 139

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the  
King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple  
draw near;  
join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things  
so wondrously reigning  
bears thee on eagle's wings, e'er in his  
keeping maintaining. God's care  
enfolds all, whose true good he  
upholds.  
Hast thou not known his sustaining?*

*Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in  
me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people  
again;  
Gladly forever adore him.*

#### CLOSING COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor Debra

As people who have been fed, go now to feed the world.  
As those who have been given hope, bring hope in place of despair.  
And always remember that we are always connected to the Source,  
The Bread of Life is with us always.  
And so we always share in Hope's Banquet.  
Go in peace to love God and serve your neighbor.

#### POSTLUDE