



Order of Worship
September 5, 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 AM

10:00 Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"

Welcome

Prelude

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Gordon

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

Call to Worship

Ruth Smale

L: Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of compassion.

P: Lord, help us to truly listen to you.

L: Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith.

P: Lord, help us to work for you.

L: Lord, make us ready to serve.

P: Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love. AMEN.

***Opening Prayer**

Ruth Smale

Lord of mercy and compassion, be with us this day as we hear of the healing love of Jesus. Remind us that we are also recipients of his compassion and we are called to bring the same hope and love to others. Prepare us for service in His Name. AMEN.

Hymn (See last page)

Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands

UMH 273

Children's Message

Pastor Debra

Morning Prayer

Pastor Debra

*We come together here as one before the Lord.
We come together here, our hearts in one accord.
We take the cup and bread, rememb'ring what Christ said.
We come together here as one before the Lord.*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying)

Ruth Smale

God of Wisdom and Grace, you speak through your Word read and proclaimed. Prepare us now to listen well. Open our ears to your truth. Humble us in your presence, God, so nothing will stand in the way of what you will say to us today. Amen.

Epistle Reading

James 2:1-13

Ruth Smale

Favoritism Forbidden

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:24-37

Ruth Smale

Jesus Honors a Syrophenician Woman's Faith

²⁴ Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. ²⁵ In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

²⁷“First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

²⁸“Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

²⁹Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”

³⁰She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Man

³¹Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³²There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. ³⁴He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “*Ephphatha!*” (which means “Be opened!”). ³⁵At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Sermon

The Syrophoenician Woman

Pastor Debra

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Ruth Smale

**Doxology*

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!

**Prayer of Dedication- All Praying*

Ruth Smale

Generous, merciful God, you invite us to the heavenly feast, promising to fill us with every good thing. Bless these ordinary gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that we may be kneaded and pressed into one holy, living body, in the name of Christ, who lived and died and rose again. 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

When we repent, God creates in us a new heart, and puts a new and right spirit within us. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

***Communion Hymn** (See last page) *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

UMH 599

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters.
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.
Your Spirit came upon prophets and teachers,
anointing them to speak your Word.

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.
At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit descended upon him
and declared him your beloved Son.

With your Spirit upon him he turned away the temptations of sin.
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.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
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.
When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,
baptizing us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, as on the Day of Pentecost.

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."

On the day you raised him from the dead
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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 and empowered by the gifts of the Spirit.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
showing forth the fruit of the Spirit 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 Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (All Praying)

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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Dedication (All Praying)

Liturgist

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own.

Give us the gifts of this holy communion – oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn (See last page) *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

FWS 2241

Benediction

Pastor Debra

God sends us forth to love all people, no strings attached.

We will share grace and hope with everyone.

Jesus sends us forth to forgive our sisters and brothers.

We will offer mercy, not judgment, to those around us.

The Spirit sends us forth to trust God in every moment.

We will live in faith, not in fear, sharing our hearts with all we meet.

Postlude

Christ, The Redeemer

Birchwood

Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands

*Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.*

*Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do.
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.*

Break Thou the Bread of Life

*Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;
my spirit pants for thee, O Living Word!*

*Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.*

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

*The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
We go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.*

*We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
Where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.*

*We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.*

*Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.*

*Gods' spirit has empowered us;
We go in Jesus' name.*