



June 18, 2023
Third Sunday after Pentecost
A Service of Farewell

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Prelude

Here I Am, Lord

Schutte

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**

Sandy Bruner

We gather this day, and much is visible:

Our smiles may show our joy; our eyes may speak of pain.

We come to this place, seeking signs of the living God:

We may sense something holy here; we may reach out to mystery.

Will we see God today? Will our living make God's love visible?

Let us worship God, Holy Mystery, Eternal Love.

***Opening Prayer**

Sandy Bruner

Mysterious God, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are your ways higher than our ways and your thoughts higher than our thoughts. So free us this day from the prison of our narrow-mindedness. Broaden the borders of our understandings. Help us cast aside all that limits us and you working in us. Continue to shape us, we who are made in your likeness, so we become more and more like you. In the name of the One who was the perfect reflection of you. Amen

***Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

UMH 103

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***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Sandy Bruner

When Jesus left his disciples, he did not leave them alone. He promised that the Holy Spirit would be present in their lives, and he gave them an amazing gift: his peace, the peace of

Christ. Through the Spirit, this gift lives still, and it is ours to share with others. Please turn to those around you and greet them with the peace of Christ by saying...

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

Children's Time

I Wish You More

Pastor Debra

Honoring Fathers

Pastor Debra

Ministry of Music

For the Beauty of the Earth

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Sandy Bruner

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7, 18-19

Sandy Bruner

Restoration and Protection Promised

43 But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight

and honored and I love you,

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made.

Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
⁸ the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

***Hymn**

You Are Mine

FWS 2218

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New Testament Reading

Matthew 22:34:40

Sandy Bruner

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

I Don't Know. It's a Mystery.

Pastor Debra

The Apostles' Creed

UMH 881

Sandy Bruner

**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.**

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Debra

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Debra

Offertory Invitation

Sandy Bruner

We are called to plant seeds of grace, hope, love and justice and to wait for God's mystery to work in the hearts and minds of others. The gifts we offer for Harmony's ministry and mission are seeds that reap a harvest beyond our imagining. With grateful hearts, let us make our offerings to God.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Gentle Jesus

Jordan

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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*

Sandy Bruner

Lord, help us to feel thankful for everything that you've given us. We worship and praise you with our gifts. Our prayer this morning is that through us, the world will see Christ's light and come to know your goodness. Please take our gifts, given today and through our online giving, and use them to strengthen Harmony's ministries, here at home and elsewhere in the world. Amen.

A Farewell Litany for Pastor Debra

See Bulletin Insert

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn**

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

FWS 383

Lay Leader Moment

Damon Moore

Benediction

Pastor Debra

Choral Benediction

Go, Ye, Go Ye Into the World

Go ye, go ye into the world,

And tell the story to all believers.

Go ye make disciples of all the nations.

Go ye, go ye now, and I will be with you there!

Postlude

Spread the Word

Kohlmann

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.*

*Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.*

YOU ARE MINE

*I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice,
Be still and know I am here. **Refrain***

***Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.***

*I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light,
Come and rest in me. **Refrain***

***Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.***

*I am strength for all the despairing,
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free,
And all will know my name. Refrain*

***Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.***

*I am the Word that leads all to freedom,
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain,
Stand up, now walk, and live! Refrain*

***Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.***

THIS IS A DAY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

*This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.*

*Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.*

*Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.*

*In faith we'll gather round the table
to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.*