

Welcome Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Prelude Flute of Grace Mons Leidvin Takle (b. 1942)

Hymn Maker, In Whom We Live UMH 88

Maker, in whom we live, in whom we are and move, the glory, power, and praise receive for thy creating love. Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high, while earth repeats the joyful song and echoes to the sky.

Incarnate Deity, let all the ransomed race render in thanks their lives to thee for thy redeeming grace. The grace to sinners showed ye heavenly choirs proclaim, and cry, "Salvation to our God, salvation to the Lamb!"

Spirit of Holiness, let all thy saints adore thy sacred energy, and bless thine heart-renewing power. No angel tongues can tell thy love's ecstatic height, the glorious joy unspeakable, the beatific sight.

Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above, let all on earth below record and dwell upon thy love. When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face, sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.

Call to Worship

"Come to me," Jesus invites. **We come to you.**

"Come to me, if you are tired." **We come to you.**

"Come to me, if you carry burdens." **We come to you.**

"Come, and discover rest for your souls." We come to you. We come to worship!

Children's Moment Reverend Ann Duncan

Anthem Awake My Heart Jane Marshall (1924-2019)

Awake, my heart, and render To God thy sure defender, Thy Maker, thy preserver, A song of love and fervor.

Confirm my deeds and guide me: My day, with thee beside me, Beginning, middle, ending, Will all be upward tending.

My heart shall be thy dwelling, With joy and gladness swelling; Thy word my nurture given To bring me on toward heaven.

Awake, my heart, and render To God thy sure defender Thy Maker, thy preserver A song of love and fervor

Pastoral Prayer

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Dear Lord, we thank you for this gift of life. We thank you for your mercy and your grace proceeding us, and leading us safely to this day and this space. Lord, we are grateful for the outpouring of your love overtaking us to keep us from being shaken in these unsettling times. We are appreciative of your relentless pursuit to love us and care for us, even when our gift to be miraculous turns disastrous. Help us to find our island of peace within our souls. Lead us to discover our true home in silence and build there an altar to you, in the inner chamber of our hearts, and there be unified with your eternal presence. In this secret place may we find rest for our weary souls.

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, 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 sins
As we forgive those who sin 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.

Scripture

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan, above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

The cup of water given for you still holds the freshness of your grace; yet long these multitudes to view the sweet compassion of your face.

O Master, from the mountainside, make haste to heal these hearts of pain; among these restless throngs abide; O tread the city's streets again;

Message

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Communion Liturgy

For Holy Communion this morning, I invite you to lend Christ your home. On the first day of Holy week long ago, people throughout Judea arrived at the dusty gates of Jerusalem, primed with "Hosanna" in their hearts and Jesus asked to borrow a donkey. On the Thursday that followed. Jesus rented or was given John Mark's mother's Upper Room to celebrate the Passover with the disciples. On the afternoon of the resurrection, Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless. Lend Christ your home, and, your cup and your heart, for, as the disciples told the person who loaned the donkey, "The Lord has need of it."

Prayer of Consecration:

Leader: We belong to a worldwide table we are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is spread worldwide, we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

Unison: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your child shelters in place, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

Words of Remembering

Leader: We remember that Paul the apostle wrote letters to congregations throughout places we now call Greece, Turkey and Macedonia, and they were the first "remote" worship resources. Our online service has a long heritage. The Communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these: For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven. Please hold your bread up in front of you and let's break it together symbolizing this is the body of Christ which is broken for us.

Unison: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing. Lift up your cup and dip your bread in the cup of blessing. Unison: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

Unison: Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Reverend Ann Duncan

Offertory Prayer

Reverend Ann Duncan

As you have received each one of us, O Lord, receive also these gifts that we offer to you that your love may be made known through ministries of peace, hope and justice. Amen.

Offertory

Rock of Ages

Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH No. 94

Closing Hymn

O God, Our Help In Ages Past

UMH 117 vs 1, 2,5 & 6

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares, are carried downward by your flood, and lost in foll'wing years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Debra Murray

Alleluia UMH 186

Postlude Improvisation on "Hymn to Joy"

Richard Elliott (b. 1957)