



“To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us – and He has given us everything.

Every breath we draw is a gift of His Love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him.” Thomas Merton

Welcome to Worship

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries

(...singing Happy Birthday, God Loves You!)

***Call to Worship**

One: Please Stand in body or in spirit for the Call to Worship.

One: Jesus comes to proclaim good news to us all!

All: Jesus releases those who are captive, gives sight to the blind, helps the oppressed, and declares the year of the Lord's favor!

One: May we go and do likewise, offering hope to a hurting world. And may it all begin with our worship of God.

***Opening Prayer**

We praise you, extraordinary God, for the holiness of ordinary things — a gathering of fellow believers, a song of praise, a prayer of thanksgiving, a word, a loaf of bread, a cup, a fountain of water. Send your spirit to rush, cool and clear, through our dry and brittle places. May the spirit seep into the cracks and crevices of our hearts, that we might know you more fully and worship you more deeply. Amen.

***Opening Hymn 700, I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

Celebrations, Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer...

O God, from the beginning of time humanity has called out to you for help, guidance and care. You have graciously heard our prayers and worked your good will in the lives of the faithful. Hear us again, Lord, as we pray. We pray for the world around us that is both filled with incredible beauty and startling pain. We thank you for the blessings of this world — for family and friends, for work that fulfills and provides, and for the sure and certain knowledge of your presence and care. We thank you too that you come alongside us in our pain and difficulty and that you bring light out of darkness. Teach us each to care for the brokenhearted and to lift up those who suffer. Teach us to go again and again to the witness of Jesus and live into the persons he has taught us to be. We pray for our churches: big and small, rural and urban. We pray for all churches who call on the name of Jesus Christ. May the body of Christ be strengthened in its witness and may we glorify you, O God. May we look more like our Savior and less like the broken world around us. May we be true to Christ alone. Free us from distractions that deplete us and guide us away from you. Teach us to focus on helping others, trusting that you will provide for all we need. Let our hearts be freed to worship

you with all that we are and all that we have. We ask this all in Jesus' name., who taught us to pray....

***Passing of the Peace**

Since God has made peace with us, let us make peace with each other.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

(Please share the Peace of Christ with each other)

Our Offerings to God

In life and in death we belong to God. It is not only we ourselves that belong to God, but all that we have also belongs to God. Let us open our hearts and our hands as we bring our estimates of giving and offerings that we may give generously and graciously—in the manner God has given to us.

(If you have not already done so, please put your estimate of giving in the offering plate)

Offertory Music

***Doxology (607)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, Whom we adore. Amen

Offering Prayer – Dedication of Our Estimates of Giving.

Creator God, you have blessed each of us with gifts, the variety of talents that make up the body of Christ, enabling us to do your work here in this place and time.

All: Instill in us the desire to use our gifts to the best of our ability to serve you.

Loving God, we stand before you as people of varying financial means. Help us be thankful and content with whatever we have, instead of wishing for more.

All: Instill in us the desire to give generously out of whatever we have, trusting that you will always provide.

Compassionate God, help us order the time in our days and weeks so it becomes a priority to find ways to regularly serve your people.

All: Instill in us the desire to give freely of our time to others so our lives are ordered by your priorities, not ours.

Almighty God, you sent your Son, Jesus, not only to save us from our sins but to model a life of obedience and service. So often, we let our priorities outweigh your priorities.

All: Instill in us the desire to be obedient and to actively watch for opportunities to be your hands and feet in the world. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray: Loving God, may your Spirit be with us each, showing us your Word and your Way. Amen.

Scripture

Proverbs 3:1-10 (The Message)

Good friend, don't forget all I've taught you;

take to heart my commands.

They'll help you live a long, long time,

a long life lived full and well.

Don't lose your grip on Love and Loyalty.

Tie them around your neck; carve their initials on your heart.

Earn a reputation for living well

in God's eyes and the eyes of the people.

Trust God from the bottom of your heart;

don't try to figure out everything on your own.

Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;

he's the one who will keep you on track.

Don't assume that you know it all.

Run to God! Run from evil!

Your body will glow with health,

your very bones will vibrate with life!

Honor God with everything you own;

give him the first and the best.

Your barns will burst,

your wine vats will brim over.

Anthem As We Come Together

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:12-28

The Message

You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, transparent and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell?

As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it.

But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes no difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair?

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Message

Rev. Elizabeth Lyman

***Sending Hymn** 612, We Praise You, O God

***Benediction**

***Song: Let There be Peace on Earth**

Postlude:

**Please stand in body or in spirit*