



An Inclusive Christian Community
feeding the spiritual and physical hunger of Oakland.

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Picnic Miracle

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August 02, 2026
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Prelude

What Wondrous Love Is This

Southern Harmony
arr. John Carter

Welcome

Rev. Mary Elyn Bahlert

Opening Prayer (responsive)

Joseph Koroma

Leader: Just as the crowds followed Jesus,
eager to be filled with hope,
we come this day to this place,
seeking nourishments for our souls.

**People: We hunger and thirst for the word of hope and truth,
but our lives are battered by anger and hostility.**

**Our hearts are filled with concerns for family and friends,
for our country and our world.**

We don't see how we can be of help to others.

Leader: Sit us down, as Jesus seated the multitude.
Calm us down, as Jesus reassured the disciples
that all would receive care.

Lift us up, as Jesus encouraged others
to reach out in compassion.

**All: Give us hearts of confident faith
in your presence, O Lord,
as we worship you today. Amen**

ministry matters (adapt)

Opening Song

(Please stand if able)

Come, Share the Lord
TFWS 2269

1. We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving Son the Father makes us one:
come, take the bread;
come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord

2. No one is a stranger here,
everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.

3. He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most is now our gracious host:
come, take the bread;
come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.

4. We are now a family
of which the Lord is head;
though unseen he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.

5. We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
come, take the bread;
come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.

Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

Scripture

Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)

Joseph Koroma

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

"Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Sermon

Picnic Miracle

Rev. Mary Elyn Bahlert

Holy Communion

(adapted from giftinopenhands, Katherine Hawker, Nathan Nettleman)

Rev. Mary Elyn Bahlert

Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon

Invitation

Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon

Pastor: 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.

Confession & Pardon

Pastor: We come believing in our emptiness,
believing that we will never have enough,
believing that what we have is unworthy.
We come fearful of sharing,
fearful of losing our tenuous grip on security,
fearful of touching and knowing the pain of others.
We come overwhelmed by the hunger,
overwhelmed by the suffering of children near and far,
overwhelmed by the endless tales of
senseless violence, greed, and death.

All: We come clinging to our meager lunches.

Bless them and us.

Break them, and us.

Share them, and us.

Silence Is Kept For Prayers Of Confession

Pastor: Hear the good news friends!
God is with us, offering us hope and courage and abundance.
God is with you this day, this very minute,
lifting you from despair. This is the good news!
God is always with us!

Passing the Peace of Christ

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Rev. Mary Elyn Bahlert

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: We remember the Creator
in all we see that grows and breathes,
all that swims, swarms, slithers,
all that runs, flies, leaps and loves.

We remember Jesus Christ, who through him
you offer food for our deepest hunger,
and it is in holding tight to him that we
see your face and receive your blessing.

We remember a Passover in Jerusalem
when Jesus borrowed an upper room,
soaked and scrubbed the tired feet of others,
and explained that there is a God-shaped hole
in everyone's belly that Jesus would fill with love.

Remembering is beautiful,
but there is not much taste in it.
Let us stop running to nearby villages
with our hunger and thirst,
and be present here and now,
to eat and drink, be blessed and broken.

Bless the bread on this table, broken and shared
like the picnic of grace.

All: Sharing love, we will never be hungry.

Bless the cup on this table, to be shared
like the overflowing of tears and joy.

All: Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.

Pastor: Pour out your Spirit on us gathered here
and on these gifts of bread and cup,
pointing us toward that day when we who are many
will partake of one loaf and one cup.
Breathe life and love into us and knit us together.
Make these gifts for us be the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for this broken world
the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Through communion this morning
may you nourish us to minister with all the world
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your child Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours,
almighty God, now and forever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)

**Please feel free to use the name of your choice for God that speaks to your soul.*

Our *Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Sharing In The Bread And Cup/Invitation To Prayer Stations

Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon

Unison Prayer

Rev. Stephanie Gameros, Deacon

**All: God of compassion, you bless and break
everything we are and everything we bring to you.
Our deep scarcity becomes enough to sustain us,
and then our "enough" becomes
an abundance we could never imagine.
We pray that your Spirit of life and love,
of tenderness and power,
rest upon every bread and every cup,
that they may feed the inmost need of every child of God
and pour forth a grace that can change the world. Amen**

Living as the Church

Offering & Thanksgiving

Sweet, Sweet Spirit
UMH 334

**There's a sweet sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Sweet Holy Spirit Sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us,
filling us with your love;
and for these blessings
we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know
that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.**

Closing Song

(Please stand if able)

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing UMH 400

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.
2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Closing Prayer (responsive)

Joseph Koroma

Leader: Within the baskets of the crowd,
within the pantries of our homes,
within the corners of our hearts,
there is enough.

**People: Among our global neighbors,
among our friends and family,
among our very household,
there is enough.**

**All: Sweet Ever-Living Jesus,
keep speaking to us saying:
“you feed them!”
And let us eagerly reply:
“we will!” Amen**

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Postlude

Lead On, O King Eternal

Henry Thomas Smart
arr. Mark Hayes