

10:00am  
Worship

May 14, 2023



HENNEPIN  
AVENUE UMC  
Celebrate Peacemaking

**Prelude**

*Song of Peace*

Patrick

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

**+ Opening Prayer (Marty)**

Fathering God, you have searched us and known us. You  
know when we lie down and when we rise up; you discern  
our thoughts from far away.

Mothering God, it was you who formed our inward parts, you  
who knit us together in our mother's womb. We praise you,  
for we are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Holy Son, you have come into the world as the Word made  
flesh and dwelling among us, as a constant and abiding  
reminder that God is always with us, even to the ends of the

earth. You are the light that has shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Creating Spirit: Where can we go where you are not with us? If we ascend to heaven, you are there. If we make our bed in the depths, you are there. If we perceive the darkness overwhelming us, we know that even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. You hem us in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon us. When we come to the end, you are still with us.

Let us pray:

**Loving God, in your wisdom you have created us and given us many gifts. Today, we thank you for all that we mean to each other and to our friends and families. We thank you for the love that has brought us to this time and place, and for your love which abides to tie us all together. Where you are, O God, there is love. Amen.**

**+Opening Hymn**  
UMH#384

*Love Divine, All  
Loves Excelling*

Tune:  
HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion ,pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.  
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

**+Welcome (Judy)**

**Anthem**

*If Ye Love Me*

Sanctuary Choir

If ye love Me, keep My commandments,  
and I will pray the Father,  
and He shall give you another Comforter,  
that He may abide with you forever,  
E'en the Spirit of truth.

**Contemporary Paraphrase** (Jim Ahrens)  
**of 1 Corinthians 13**

Although I may be a gifted speaker and can pray in tongues anytime, anywhere, and yet I don't love others, I am only making noise without substance. And though I seem to have an answer for everything and people come to me for my opinions, and I am a dynamo of spiritual power with many spiritual victories, and yet I have no love, I am a zero. And though my generosity is well known, and I have sacrificed all for God with wounds and scars to prove it, yet I have no love, God hasn't profited from me at all. So, how can you tell whether or not you have real love? See for yourself how love behaves by the following list: Love smiles through the pain of being hurt, criticized, misunderstood and ignored without constantly complaining. Love never confronts anyone unless it is with a kind, well-considered word without blasting them out of the room. Love doesn't judge or want what others have—clothes, car, job, wife, husband, money, personality or even spiritual gifts. It doesn't go around talking about God being unfair or people being uncaring when the real problem

is envy and jealousy. It shuns the limelight and recognition. It doesn't have "I" problems. Love declines to make a scene about everything and won't make mountains out of molehills. It will not choose inappropriate and disruptive ways to make a point. It doesn't have to be right all the time and it is slow to get stirred up about every tale spread through the ever-active grapevine. Love doesn't wear its feelings on its sleeves, and it doesn't assume that others are thinking, doing and intending the worst. It gives people the benefit of the doubt. Love suffers when someone fails or when tragedy strikes. It takes no pleasure in sin or wrongdoing of any kind. It is most interested in the truth winning out, even when the truth hurts. Love lends its shoulder to bear the burdens of others and never breaks their confidence. It believes the best in people and tries hard to trust them. Even when love feels someone is wrong, lying, or making a huge mistake, it still hopes for the best possible outcome. And when love is disappointed and crushed by bearing, believing

and hoping, it endures the hurt and embarrassment with cheer and restraint, always continuing to be itself—love.

Three great forces motivate the church: faith, hope and love.

These powerful attributes are the basis for everything the church is doing in the world today. But even when you narrow it all down to these three, at the top of the list you'll find love."

### **+Sharing the Peace of Christ (Judy)**

The peace of Christ be with you;  
**And also with you!**

### **Time for Children (Keesha)**

**FWS #2123**

*Loving Spirit*

Tune: KINGDOM

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be  
you have drawn me to your wonder,  
you have set your sign on me.**

**Like a mother you enfold me,  
hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body,  
form me of your flesh and bone.**

**Like a father you protect me,  
teach me the discerning eye,**

**hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
let me see the world from high.**

**Friend and lover, in your closeness  
I am known and held and blessed:  
In your promises my comfort,  
in your presence I may rest.**

**Scripture (Marty Shimko)**

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” 19They answered, “John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.” 20He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “The Messiah of God.” 21He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, 22saying, “The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” 23Then he said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24For those who want to

save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** (Judy)  
*Celebrate: Peacemaking*  
**Prayer of Confession,  
Words of Assurance,  
and The Lord's Prayer**  
(Marty Shimko)

Our confession is that we have forgotten whose we are and therefore who we are – created and lovingly made to walk in God's way of peace and live in God's shalom. We are called to pick up our cross and follow Jesus' way of peace, striving for the vision of a peaceable kingdom where enemies reconcile and turn weapons of war into instruments of agriculture, of feeding others, of kindness and generosity.

**We confess to allowing our nation to be awash with guns, awash with weapons, awash with unchecked**



**violence, awash with people so alienated that they turn to weapons of war to express themselves. We confess to failing to protect our children.**

We confess that we ignore or quickly forget the pain of gun violence – especially in communities threatened and stalked by gun violence where people are of a different race or religion or ethnicity or sexual orientation than ours.

**We confess to numbness from the numbers of those shot, maimed, killed, and left to mourn after the media moves on; to weariness at the frequency of these events.**

We confess that we indulge in the hopelessness of doubting that easy access to guns will ever change, and use our weariness as an excuse to quit trying.

*Silent confession and reflection*

When we name the truth of what is, we are also given the potential to see what can be changed. When we receive God's forgiveness, it is not an end but a beginning that seeds our hope. In 1 Corinthians 13:13, we are taught that faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. We give thanks for the love of Christ who makes all things new. We are forgiven and we are empowered to change.

*This is our hope as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Give (Judy)**

**Offertory**

*With Heart and  
Hands*

Sanctuary Choir

For all the blessings you have granted us,  
Lord, give us thankful hearts, we pray;  
For life and health and happiness,  
And for the give of each new day.

For all our families and loved ones,  
The friends we meet along our way,  
We thank you, Lord, they are your gifts:  
Lord we praise you, Lord, we bless you;  
In your service let us all your love repay.

Look all around you: You'll see a miracle or two:  
Every valley hill and mountain is calling to you.

For all the wonders of creation,  
A world whose marvels we behold:  
Where winter turns to spring again;  
The changing scenes of lif unfold,

But there is one who never changes:  
Through all eternity the same:  
Be with us, Lord, for evermore:  
Alleluia, Lord, we praise your Holy Name.

**Now thank we all our God,  
for hearts and hands and voices.  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom the world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today. Amen.**

**+Doxology**

Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen

**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 (Judy)**

**Announcements (Judy)**

**+Hymn UMH#577**

*God of Grace and  
God of Glory*

Tune: CWM  
RHONDDA

**God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story;  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.**

**Cure thy children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, elfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.**

**+Benediction & Sending**  
(Judy)

**Postlude**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*