

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 3, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Holy and merciful God, we gather as your church, called to confess you as Lord and Savior to a world that knows you not; called to be the body of Christ to serve the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, and “the least of these”; called to exercise our variety and abundance of gifts to further your will, not ours; and called to proclaim, like Peter, the truth of who you are. Grant us, we pray, clarity of purpose, courage of conviction, and compassion for those who have lost their way. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God’s People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

Poem

Jacquie D’Angelo, 7/12/2023

Disillusionment

Can often take hold

When watching the news

While events unfold

Hypervigilance

Disrupting routines

Becoming depressed

When viewing the scenes

*Maintaining balance
When faced with chaos
Will help our Spirit
Heal and sustain us*

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Welcome to worship. Let us skip all the preliminaries. Let us jump to the very center of what it means to follow Jesus, for today we will hear Jesus speak about his cross.

People: But it's not the season of Lent. Today isn't Good Friday. Why the cross? Why now?

Leader: There is urgency in the words of Matthew 16 as we hear: "From that time on (after Peter's confession), Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering...and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

People: This was the first time he mentioned this topic.

Leader: Then Jesus told his disciples, if any want to become my followers,

People: Let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Leader: For those who want to save their life will lose it,

People: And those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

***Hymn**

"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

#718

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

Holy God, we confess to you our unwillingness to take up our cross. We want gain without pain, joy without sorrow, Easter without Good Friday. Help us to be more like you, searching the depths of our hearts for the crosses that we must take up if we are to truly follow our Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive us, renew us, and strengthen us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

#654

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

Solo “Thoughts on Malachi”

John Gorman, 1989

I am drawn to this place to fulfill my need.

I profess my faith in God

And I sit in righteous piety while his children starve outside,
While his children starve inside.

For I steal from God what He needs most

And then calculate it mine.

So I fear that God won’t find a place

For such untrue hearts as mine,

Such an untrue heart as mine.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Take Up Your Cross”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

“Stars”

Claude-Michel Schönberg, 1986

***Response**

“Doxology”

#606

***Prayer of Dedication**

Ordination and Installation

***Sentences of Scripture**

Pastor: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

Pastor: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

People: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

***Statement on Ordination**

***Profession of Faith**

Pastor: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

People: I do.

Pastor: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

People: I do.

Pastor: Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

People: I will, with God's help.

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

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

Pastor: Gracious and eternal God, with joy we give you thanks and praise.
... By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Constitutional Questions

Congregational Questions

Clerk of Session: Do we, the members of the church, accept Jan and Crystal as deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

People: We do.

Clerk of Session: Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

People: We do.

***Prayer of Ordination and Installation**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

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

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Welcome

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pew to the center aisle and return to your pew from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

Invitation to the Lord's Table

***Hymn of Invitation** "I Am the Bread of Life"

#522

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service, that our daily living may show our thanks. Help us to take up our crosses and follow you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

The Sending of God's People

***Closing Hymn** "Lift High the Cross"

#826

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response

"We Are the Church"



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!



All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

Pastors: Désirée M. Youngblood
Steve Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Liturgist: David Parrott

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Soloist: Paul Oswalt

Acolytes: Devin Griggs, Nate Angel

David grew up and went to school throughout the state of Iowa, but recently moved to London, Ohio in the summer of 2020 with his wife, Stephanie, after she graduated with her PhD in chemistry from Iowa State University. They will be celebrating their 3rd wedding anniversary this September. David and Stephanie can often be found gardening and riding their tandem bicycle on the trails surrounding London. They love to spend time with their furry children (Minnie, a 2 year-old Staffordshire terrier, and Charlie, a 10 year-old Mini Rex rabbit). If you happen to find yourself at the Madison Health Hospital in London, you might see David, as he recently started working there as a phlebotomist and lab technologist.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” – Mat 16:24.

How often we complain about the cross we bear but don't realize it is preparing us for the dip in the road that God can see and we cannot.

**Whatever your cross
Whatever your pain
There will always be sunshine after the rain**

**Perhaps you may stumble
Perhaps even fall
But God is always ready to answer your call**

**He knows every heartache
Sees every tear
A word from His lips, can calm every fear**

**Your sorrows may linger, throughout the night
But suddenly vanish, dawn's early light**

**The Savior is waiting in Heaven above
To give you His grace, and send you His love**

~ David Wallace

David Wallace is a search & social media marketer who lives in Ahwatukee, Arizona with his lovely wife. Interests & hobbies include Christianity, musicianship, all things Disney, and roller coasters to name a few.