



## SERMON

### PASTORAL PRAYER & OUR LORD'S PRAYER

*All: Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

### COMMUNION

(insert)

#### *Invitation*

One: On the night of betrayal, denial, and desertion, Jesus prepared his disciples for life beyond the tomb. He demonstrated with wine and bread what he would later perform in his flesh and blood.

***Many: Jesus wanted them to remember and to understand his solidarity and his sacrifice.***

One: Jesus still prepares a place for each and all of us at this table. Will you come?

***Many: In awe and wonder, humility and thanksgiving, we come to the table to feast with the Risen One.***

#### *Words of Institution*

One: God be with you.

***Many: And also with you.***

One: Lift up your hearts.

***Many: We lift them to God.***

One: Let us give thanks to God.

***Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

One: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and gave thanks to you, O God, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying: "this is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

***Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

One: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us.

Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world.

Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new. Amen.

#### *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

***Holy One, thank you for this feast at your table. As we receive bread and cup, may we encounter your grace and be filled with your love. May we go forward from this table with great joy, ever seeking your resurrecting presence among us and discerning your call for us to be present for our neighbors in the world. By your spirit, we pray. Holy, Holy, Holy One, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the Highest!***

### OFFERING INVITATION

Alexander Carmichael said, "The people say that the sun dances on this day in joy for a risen Saviour."

Whether clouds obscure the view, the sun takes the gifts it has been given to glorify God. Let us also take the gifts we have been given and use them to bring glory to the Holy One through the generosity of the resurrected life that proclaims that nothing is impossible for God.

**\*PRESENTATION & OFFERING RESPONSE**

**Black # 778**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that love has done / Creator, Christ, and Spirit, one.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Holy Love, receive these gifts as seeds given in thanksgiving for your generosity. Let us rejoice in giving just as the sun dances in its power. Help us to nourish these offerings to meet the needs of our community and to witness to your goodness. We dedicate them to the flourishing of your kingdom. Amen.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**“Christ Rose Up from the Dead”**

**Black # 239**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May the tomb be just a stop  
Reminding us that God’s reign knows no bounds  
The realm of God’s possible knows no limits  
God’s presence always remains  
God’s protection endures  
God’s glory radiates the day and the night  
And the power of Christ lives in us.

May we go forth from the tomb  
Renewed and rededicated to witness to this good news  
To live the resurrected life in spirit and in truth  
And to be the good news in the world God loves.

One: May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit be with you and go with you always. Our Worship Service is ended,

*Many: May our service never end. Amen.*

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

*\*Please stand as you’re comfortable  
Liturgies from the UCC’s Worship Ways, originally written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay*