COMMUNION HYMN #505 "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

1 Be known to us in breaking bread,

But do not then depart;

Savior, abide with us, and spread

Thy table in our heart.

2 There sup with us in love divine; Thy body and Thy blood, That living bread, that heavenly wine, Be our immortal food.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (see insert)

*CLOSING HYMN #386 "O for a World"

- 1 O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.
- 2 O for a world where good are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.
- 3 We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.
- 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.
- 5 O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

BENEDICTION CHORAL RESPONSE POSTLUDE Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson

A Joyful Trumpet Patricia Lou Harris

SHARON RITZMANN HAS PLACED FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND ROGER

THANK YOU TO SESSION FOR THIS MORNING'S COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY WORSHIP

MAY 5th, 2024

10:30AM



A SERVICE OF RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF

The Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson as Pastor Emeritus

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Kate Kelly

INTRODUCTION OF MAY'S MISSION OF THE MONTH

Heifer International

PRELUDEIn The Garden..... arr. by James Koerts
Belinda Vair – Accompanist/Choir Director

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Joshua 24:1-3,14-25)

Thomas Ruehle

We are pulled in many directions.

Many duties and tasks seek to lay claim on our lives.

This day, in this place, let service to God be your choice.

This day, in this place, we open our hearts and spirits to God.

Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives. Amen.

*HYMN #464

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (See Insert)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Invitation

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer:

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition. We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.

We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end, amen! Amen.

LITANY FOR CONFERRING PASTOR EMERITUS STATUS

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of Pastor Emeritus

Presentation of the Honor

Congregation's Response

We are each part of the one body in Christ, an expression and witness to God's unlimited love for all people. Since we have been baptized into the body of Christ, we participate in Jesus' ministry of reconciling love. We rejoice that this ministry is shared with our brother, Earl. We accept him now and in the future as Pastor Emeritus of this congregation. We pledge to Earl our ongoing Christian love and support. We offer our continued prayers and promise a steadfast unity in God's Spirit. Together, we will seek to glorify God and serve Christ in a mission and ministry of love in this house of worship and throughout creation.

Meaning of this Honor

Acceptance of this Honor

Prayer of Recognition

Declaration and Presentation

ANTHEM Hear Us O Father.....

D. Besig

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading: Joshua 24:14-15 (Pew Bible Page #216) Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson

New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 (Pew Bible Page #180)

SERMON You Are Christ's Letter

Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson

*HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays, Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea, Singing bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3 Mortals, join the happy chorus Which the morning stars began; Love divine is reigning o'er us, Joining all in heaven's plan. Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife, Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Kate Kelly

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

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.

The Words of Institution Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson

The Distribution of Elements

Communion Music

Prayer after Communion Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson